CANNOCK
CHRONICLE

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Mixed New Year fortunes for Scholars and Pitmen

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BOXING BOBBY'S NEW YEAR AWARD

by Tom Mason

AN AWARD-winning boxing bobby is to receive further recognition with an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours list. Pc Andy Whitehall's accolade is for his work with young children in Cannock and surrounding areas.

Pc Whitehall is responsible for the Right Stuff Boxing Project, a scheme that helps young people and adults create a positive future for themselves.

Pc Andy Whitehall MBE

Although the clubs are open to all, the children involved are often referred to the project by social services, youth offending teams and education welfare officers.

As well as teaching the discipline of boxing, the initiative allows youngsters to gain qualifications in coaching and teaches them social responsibility by including them in community projects such as litter picking, gardening and delivering food to elderly residents.

Pc Whitehall, who works as part of the Safer Stronger Communities team based in Stafford, gives up much of his own time to run the clubs in Stafford, Stone, Huntington and Cannock.

He said: "It's a real privilege and honour to receive this award. Young people are often portrayed in a negative way and whilst some kids can unfortunately go off the rails, I'm constantly amazed by the youngsters I get to work with.

"Right Stuff boxing clubs give them a purpose, focus, coaching and mentoring and can transform and develop young people into positive role models for their peers."

Outstanding

Following Pc Whitehall's popular summer school initiatives in Cannock, figures showed that reports of anti-social behaviour had dropped by a third.

Chief Constable Mike Cunningham, who himself was awarded the Queen's Policing Medal in the Honours List, said: "Andy's award is richly deserved.

"He's an outstanding officer who gives up a massive amount of his own time to work with youngsters."

As a mark of how successful the clubs have been, in September 2009, Pc Whitehall received a national award for his work from The British Boxing Board of Control, followed in 2011 with the project celebrating Staffordshire's first ever national female boxing champion, 16-year-old Sophie Stewart from Yarnfield who won the National Amateur Boxing Association Flyweight Championship in Manchester.

Clued up for 100th birthday

Muriel Glynn celebrates her birthday with great grandchildren Max and Lucy Tipson, granddaughter Joanna Tipson and her husband Keith, daughter Janis Bayley, son-in-law Howard, team leader Jessy Joseph and activity co-ordinator Rosalyn Matthews

CROSSWORD fan Muriel Glynn celebrated her 100th birthday on New Year's Day, surrounded by family and friends at Lakeview Care Home, in Great Wyrley.

Mrs Glynn, who has lived at the home in Stafford Road for the past four years, was born and grew up in Netherton, Dudley, with her brother William. She married Ernest at St Andrew's Church, Netherton, in June 1940. Her daughter and son-in-law, Janis and Howard Bayley, her two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren all helped her to celebrate the special day.

Mrs Glynn was a secretary at a car firm during her working years and is also a keen bridge player. Care home activities co-ordinator Rosalyn Matthews said: "She's always got a crossword book in her hand.

"She's got a good memory and enjoys talking about the old days."

Bin lorry cameras used in initiative

A BIN lorry was fitted with CCTV cameras to crack down on poor or dangerous driving in Cannock and Rugeley.

The refuse lorry carrying 360-degree camera equipment recorded motorists mounting the pavement to pass, narrowly missing binmen working at the rear.

The move was part of a two-day operation in December by local police, Cannock Chase Council environment officers and VOSA, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency.

Roadside checks were done on all types of vehicles at the A5 Longford and Bridgtown areas, and the A460 Slitting Mill, Rugeley.

One lorry was taken off the road and eight other motorists were given prohibition notices for defects.

Mobiles

Fixed-penalty notices and three penalty points were issued to two motorists for using mobiles when driving. Tickets were handed to three drivers for not wearing seatbelts and one vehicle was seized as the driver had no insurance.

Council officers stopped two scrap collectors who did not have licences, while another driver was ordered to produce a waste transfer notice within 24 hours.

Sgt David Edge, from Cannock Chase local policing team, said: "It is important, particularly at this time of year, with poor weather conditions, that drivers ensure their vehicles are in a safe condition."

Councillor Janos Toth, deputy leader of Cannock Chase Council said: "We have been receiving an increasing number of complaints about the disturbance caused by scrap collectors."

Power station bid to safeguard jobs

NEW details have emerged about a multi-million pound expansion scheme for Rugeley Power Station, safeguarding 170 jobs.

The plans mean it will primarily burn biofuels more than coal for the first time – in response to a Government target to increase renewable energy and cut carbon dioxide emissions. Rugeley Power Limited plans to use 85 per cent biomass and 15 per cent coal.

A design and access statement sent to Cannock Chase Council, says dust removal systems will mitigate the risk of fire or explosions. Plans are expected to go before planners next Wednesday, January 9.

Bosses pledge to use local firms for the two-year scheme, creating up to 500 temporary positions.

Woman named

POLICE have named a woman found dead in the street in Hazel Slade. The body of Amanda Appleton, aged 36, was discovered at 4.10am on Monday, December 31.

Victim's mother to fight gun laws

THE mother of murdered businessman Richard Deakin, who was shot in his own bed by contract killer is to campaign against gun crime.

Mr Deakin was killed with a sawn-off shotgun on the morning of July 5, 2010, by David Harrison, who then fled the scene in a getaway car being driven by Darryl Dickens.

The pair, from Bilston, were sentenced to a total of 67 years in prison with Harrison getting 37 years and Dickens 30 years.

Now, Mr Deakin's mother Carol, of Cheslyn Hay, says she wants to do whatever she can to make society safer by joining the fight to tighten gun controls.

"I can't believe we live in a society where people can get their hands on guns as easily as they can at the moment," she said.

Prevalent

"I want to do something to make society a safer place by getting rid of guns.

"There's only ever one thing that's going to happen if you've got a gun."

She said since the murder she was exposed to a world she knew nothing of, with guns prevalent amongst criminals conspiring to have the Walsall skip hire firm boss killed at his Burntwood home.

She added: "I always thought I was streetwise.

"But I lived in a little bubble and that bubble's been popped now.

"I'm exposed to all this evil and I never thought my family ever would be – it's a different world.

"The Government needs to tighten up gun laws because for this to happen to innocent people is wrong."

● Jailed – Page 4

Flytipping alert

TWENTY bags of compost were dumped on Forestry Commission land in Broadhurst Green just after Christmas. Cannock Chase Council urged anyone with information to get in touch.

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Bronze Kristian vaults his way to duchess duties

Kristian with the Duchess of Cambridge during the men's pommel horse final

KRISTIAN Thomas was Wolverhampton's biggest success story at the Olympics after his stunning bronze medal win.

The Wednesfield gymnast was part of the Team GB squad who claimed the first men's team gymnastic medal in 100 years at London 2012. His final high bar and floor routine at the North Greenwich Arena secured bronze for the team – after they were briefly elevated to silver in an afternoon of drama.

Only Japan's successful appeal, which left them in second place, denied Team GB an even better result – but Thomas, who trains at the Earls Gymnastics Club, Halesowen, admits he couldn't believe his success.

"I keep looking down at the medal and I'm amazed," said the 23-year-old.

"There was a lot of pressure on that routine. I was very confident I could go through it successfully. We've put in all the hard work and it was a matter of controlling the nerves and letting the body take over."

He finished seventh in the all-round event and eighth in the vault final as the Team GB gymnasts collected the team bronze. And Thomas believes British Gymnastics, which is based at Lilleshall, is about to explode after their achievements.

"It's been pretty surreal," said Kristian, who found himself sitting next the the Duchess of Cambridge discussing the finer points of the pommel event. "The aim from British Gymnastics was to come away with one medal but to get a team medal and three other individual medals has been fantastic."

Our golden girl

Ellie Simmonds' smile sums up the success of London 2012. The **Chronicle** looks back at our local athletes' triumphs and despairs

AT just 13, Ellie Simmonds had already etched her legacy into the Paralympics.

Now, after London 2012 she is the nation's sweetheart. So much so that she was one of the 12 athletes nominated for the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year and became an OBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

The expectation and pressure heaped on the Walsall swimming sensation after her gold rush four years ago was immense.

Boldmere Swimming Club star Simmonds was one of the faces of the London Paralympic Games at the age of 17 as the nation waited for her to deliver the golds they, and she, craved.

And she did it in style with two golds, plus a silver and a bronze to justify her billing as one of the greatest Paralympic swimmers of the modern era.

She smashed her own world record by five seconds in the 400m – clocking 5:19.17s – and her Games-long battle with American teenager Victoria Arlen was one of the stories of the Paralympics.

Simmonds has dominated since winning double gold in Beijing, taking 15 consecutive major championship titles, including 10 world golds, in the last three years.

But she admitted, especially in the 400m, to feeling the heat from the home crowd. "I felt like I had a lot of pressure on me," said Simmonds, who won 100m and 400m freestyle S6 in Beijing in 2008. It means so much to win a gold at your home Paralympics and the pressure was quite hard to deal with.

"The crowd were amazing, they got me to that wall first. People expected me to get gold, which was not the case with Victoria on the scene.

"It was a five-second personal best and I knew it would be so tough leading into it with Victoria being in such good form.

"The last 50m hurt, it just killed me, and I was so pleased to touch, I knew I had no regrets and I am so pleased. I knew my race plan and it was to stick with Victoria for the first 200m and then kick my legs for the last 200m and just go for it.

"The last 50m I literally gave it everything; when I touched, I had no energy left. It was a tough race, one of the toughest races of my life."

Simmonds' biggest concern pre-Games was that she would cry again in her post-race interviews, the teenager admitting she still can't watch her Beijing performances because her emotions embarrass her.

It was one target she didn't achieve as the waterworks flowed after her victories – and her bronze in the 50m. It was her fourth strongest event and Simmonds was ranked fourth going into the final but produced a fine swim to claim third. Outsiders may think that a failure, but Simmonds admitted her shock at even making the podium.

"That was a massive surprise. This is my fourth event and I was going into the final fourth so I didn't expect that," she said.

"I was hoping to go for a personal best and see what happened and so to get a bronze, I will definitely take that."

Ellie Simmonds receives one of her gold medals at the Paralympics and, inset, at the BBC's Sports Personality of Year award ceremony

Tears then cheers for Jordanne

IT was a case of tears to cheers for Halesowen's Jordanne Whiley after she bounced back from semi-final heartbreak to claim wheelchair tennis doubles bronze at the Paralympic Games.

Whiley and partner Lucy Shuker were left inconsolable after seeing their gold medal dreams ended by Dutch pair Aniek van Koot and Jiske Griffioen.

After picking themselves up Whiley and Shuker sought the consolation of a bronze medal against a pair from Thailand. Despite losing the first set and slipping to a 3-0 deficit and match point in the second, they battled back to win.

Whiley said afterwards: "It was such hard work and it's such a relief."

I'll be back, says Varnish

JESS Varnish vowed to battle back from her Olympic heartbreak as she sets her sights on Rio. The 21-year-old from Bromsgrove suffered a nightmare after sheand team sprint partner Victoria Pendleton were demoted from the final.

They were guaranteed silver but disqualified after Pendleton passed Varnish, a member of Halesowen Cycling Club, too early on the final lap. But Varnish insisted her Velodrome frustration on her Olympic debut will not break her. "It makes me feel sick thinking about it but I'm going to get over it," she said.

Great Scott!

HALESOWEN'S Helen Scott has committed her future to racing for Paralympic gold with Aileen McGlynn in Rio. Scott, the sighted pilot to tandem rider McGlynn, claimed bronze in the tandem pursuit after winning silver with McGlynn in the 1km time trial and wants to complete the set in four years.

Bulldog Pollock

NO-ONE epitomises the British bulldog spirit more than wheelchair basketball player Jon Pollock but, as he battled through the pain barrier, the USA added insult to injury by denying Great Britain a third consecutive Paralympic bronze medal. The 35-year-old Wolverhampton Rhinos star was forced to undergo a pain-killing injection in his arm for Great Britain's last six matches but despite his tenacity, he ended his fourth Paralympic Games empty-handed.

Clarke challenge

DARREN Harris has been challenged to lead Great Britain's five-a-side football team to the medal mix-up at Rio 2016 by retiring legend Dave Clarke after the host nation finished their London 2012 campaign on a high. At 39 and with more than 100 caps to his name, the Wolverhampton ace is among the senior members of the Great Britain team which ended London 2012 with a first win of the competition to finish in seventh place compared to coming fifth at Beijing 2008.

Time for studies

JAMES FAIR has dismissed thoughts on Rio 2016 – and admitted he will concentrate on his studies first. The hockey goalkeeper from Cannock has started teacher training after Team GB's disappointing Olympics. They suffered a nightmare semi-final losing 9-2 to Holland and were beaten by Australia in the bronze medal match. It was a crushing blow for a squad with realistic hopes of gold and Fair admits he has some thinking to do.

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Policing is increased near store

POLICE have stepped up patrols near Hednesford's Tesco supermarket to deter boy racers.

It comes after residents reported an increase in anti-social behaviour due to youths congregating at the site in Victoria Street.

They complained that during bad weather, the youths meet up under the elevated section of the store.

Staffordshire Police has confirmed it has increased patrols and will be working with the supermarket to combat the issues.

A Hednesford police monthly newsletter said: "We liaise with management and security at the store on a regular basis, and increased patrols to deter young people and car enthusiasts from gathering at the location.

"Details are taken from those acting in an anti-social manner, which are then forwarded to our dedicated anti-social behaviour officer for further action.

"The situation is being monitored and we will keep the public informed."

Concerns have also been voiced about suspected drug dealing taking place on the car park at the Museum of Cannock Chase in nearby Valley Road.

Brisk sales for Blondie

TICKETS are selling fast for an open-air gig by Blondie at this summer's Cannock Chase concerts.

Organisers have revealed a second headline act will be announced early in the new year.

More than 10,000 tickets were released for sale for Blondie, fronted by Deborah Harry. They will be supported by the Lightning Seeds.

Rachael Miller, event manager for the Forestry Commission, said: "Sales are brisk. We have been delighted at the response and it is a really strong bill.

"We look forward to announcing the second headline act in the early part of the New Year.

Update on dig

CHAIRMAN Roger Knowles will give an update on the 'A5 excavation' at a meeting of Norton Canes Historical Society & Family History Group next week. Admission is free and it takes place at the library, in Burntwood Road, from 7-9pm on Tuesday, January 8.

Coach hits out over withdrawal of funding

A LEADING Cannock sports coach has criticised a decision by a sports body to withdraw funding for handball.

Nenad 'Pop' Popovic said he now feared for the sporting future of two of the town's international players.

The success of handball at London 2012 led to a surge in membership in both the senior and junior sections of Olympia Cannock Handball Club.

But the British men's and women's handball teams have had their £2.92 million funding to support elite athletes cut completely after finishing last in their groups at London 2012.

Mr Popovic, coach of the Olympia Cannock Handball Club, said: "To say I am extremely disappointed at the decision would be an understatement."

The club, based at Cardinal Griffin RC High School since the 1970s, was forced to expand to two more sites to cater for the demand. A possible fourth venue, at Norton Canes, is also on the cards.

Future

Among the sport's rising stars are Cannock-based Ryan Goodwin, aged 19, and 17-year-old Harriet Richards, who are both in the GB squad.

Mr Popovic said: "What is the future for them without funding? To claim that the sport failed to live up to expectation and underperformed is total rubbish and it hides behind significant failings by UK Sport.

"The whole squad for 2012 feel let down," Mr Popovic added.

"They committed seven years of their lives to 'the dream', knowing that they couldn't win but in the hope that they would inspire others, that it would provide a platform for future generations. The dream has been shattered."

It was also announced grassroots funding for handball has doubled from £0.6m to £1.2m. Officials say sports which lost their elite funding should concentrate on developing the next generation of Olympic hopefuls.

Coach Nenad 'Pop' Popovic

'I won't rest' says mother as pair jailed over killing

THE mother of murdered businessman Richard Deakin has vowed that she won't rest until everyone involved in his killing is brought to justice.

She spoke out after contract killers David Harrison and Darryl Dickens were jailed for life following a five-week trial.

by Tim Spiers

Gunman Harrison was sentenced to a minimum of 37 years and getaway driver Dickens to 30 after a Birmingham Crown Court jury returned unanimous verdicts on the Bilston pair.

Mr Deakin was shot in the chest and leg with a sawn-off shotgun as he lay in bed at his home in Meadway Street, Chasetown, in July 2010.

Lord Justice Roderick Evans told 63-year-old Harrison, of Rainbow Street: "The likelihood is you will die in prison."

Neither he, nor 34-year-old Dickens, 34 of Powell Place, showed any emotion as the verdicts were read out.

The Deakin family celebrated outside court after the jury returned their verdicts following three days of deliberations.

They agreed with Lord Justice Roderick Evans who remarked that the murder went beyond just Harrison and Dickens.

Verdicts

"They deserve everything they got," said Mr Deakin's mother Carol. "But it's not the end – I won't rest until everyone involved has come to justice.

"It's already been two-and-a-half years of hell for us."

She added she was "over the moon" with the verdicts and relieved that Harrison and Dickens were off the streets.

Staffordshire Police spokesman Peter Bate said detectives continued to follow numerous lines of inquiry on the 27-year-old's murder.

Father-of-two Mr Deakin, who ran On Time Skips in Walsall, had become engaged to his partner Megan only the weekend before he died.

Miss Deakin – who did not attend the trial but gave vital evidence via video link identifying Dickens as the driver – was visiting his grave when the verdicts were delivered. She sobbed as his mother rang to say the pair had been found guilty.

A number of arrests were made in connection with Mr Deakin's murder. A BBC Crimewatch appeal generated vital information including that of Harrison's criminal associate Alan Cash – now a police informant – who recognised the gunman from CCTV footage.

Lord Justice Evans told the defendants: "You were paid by people who are still at large. It involved people way beyond you. This was a carefully planned and professionally executed contract killing."

During the trial Dickens, who has 159 previous convictions, mostly for motoring offences, sought to play down his relationship with Harrison.

He said he did not know where his co-accused lived, despite Harrison's home being just a few hundred yards away from AD Skip Hire, which Dickens ran.

Phone records showed Harrison visited Chasetown on three separate mornings in the weeks before July 5 when he was plotting the murder.

Latex gloves similar to those worn by the gunman in the CCTV footage were discovered in Harrison's van, as well as £26,000 in bank notes – dated within two weeks of the murder – during a search of his second home in Folkestone.

DCI Darren Harding, who led the investigation which brought Harrison and Dickens to court, said Mr Deakin's killers were "cold-blooded and calculated".

Driver Darryl Dickens

Gunman David Harrison

Victim Richard Deakin

Richard Deakin's mother Carol with a picture of her son and his sister Marie

NEWS in brief

Chance to walk off festive excess

CANNOCK residents keen to work off that festive excess are invited to join a free walking group.

Age UK South Staffordshire's Live Life, Live Younger scheme is supported by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

Walks start tomorrow (Friday) with a two-hour stroll in and around Shoal Hill, meeting at 11am in the Shoal Hill Tavern car park. It will be followed by a one-and-a-half hour walk. leaving Chasewater Innovation Centre on Saturday, January 5 at 10am.

Walks set off from the old Mining College, Queens Street, Chasetown, at 11am on Monday, January 7 and from Chasewater Heaths Railway Station, Chasetown, at 10.30am on January 9. Call 01543 301265 for details.

Prices are frozen at historic estate

VISITOR prices at Shugborough Hall have been frozen for a third year.

The move has been made to safeguard the historic estate's future in the wake of cuts to reduce the expense of running the tourist attraction.

Further cuts to staff and events have all but been ruled out by council bosses.

The number of staff in the visitor service sector has been cut from 66 to 32 while the estate's season will be shortened and will close on a Tuesday

First Beetle Drive of the new year

A BEETLE Drive takes place at a Rugeley church next week. They are held on the first Monday of each month at St Michael's Church, Brereton, with the next one taking place on January 7.

The church's first Lunch Bunch of the year is on January 16. January 21 is the date for the year's first bingo session.

Castle Ring trek

A 10-mile walk is planned around Cannock Chase from Castle Ring this weekend. The trek on Sunday, January 6 sets off at 10am and includes a cafe stop. Contact walk leader Ian on 07791 750526.

Branch meeting

THE Cannock branch of the Royal Engineers Association holds its monthly meeting on Monday, January 7, from 8pm at the Ex-servicemen's club, Walsall Road, Cannock.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

WORST Christmas shock. Waking up and discovering you agree with Piers Morgan.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

I ONCE visited a school with its own armed guard, as suggested by America's National Rifle Association (and rightly condemned as idiotic by Morgan). The guard was a jovial, slightly overweight soldier sitting in the sunshine outside the head's study in the town of Kiryat Shmona in northern Israel, with his Armalite assault rifle on his knees. The NRA says all schools should have a guard like this to prevent more school massacres. The snag, of course, is that the psychopath preparing to slaughter children knows exactly what is about to happen but the guard does not. In order to kill the children, the gunman would first shoot the guard. No problem.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

A PUZZLE from the sales. Why is it the average till operator can hold on to the winter snuffles for ages and then cough or sneeze straight into a handful of your change?

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

SIMPLE, isn't it? All you have to do to establish what happened by the main gate to Downing Street is to play the silent CCTV footage of "Plebgate" and try to speak the dialogue between officers and Andrew Mitchell, as reported in the official police log. Paul Merton and Daniel Radcliffe performed it as a playlet on Have I Got News For You (BBC1) and there seemed to be far too many words to fit the time available. David Cameron has had access to the police log and the tape for three months. Did he try making the words fit? If not, why not?

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

BEST party-cracker joke: "I wanted to train as a masseur but they said I'd have to start at the bottom."

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

A READER reports that, quite out of the blue, his wife has been bombarded with begging letters from half a dozen charities. He handles the household bills and correspondence and she never uses the internet. So how have these charities, who have never bothered his wife before, suddenly become aware of her existence? All he can suggest is that his wife has recently started drawing her state pension. Surely someone at the Department of Work and Pensions cannot be supplying details to charities? I wouldn't be in the least surprised. Would you?

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

THE BBC may have millions of pounds to shower on its bosses and senior managers but, at the bottom of the pile, BBC local radio is strapped for cash. From January 7, instead of getting a local programme, all 39 BBC local-radio stations in England and the Channel Islands will get the same three-hour programme. The job of spinning bad news into good news falls to David Holdsworth, the BBC's Controller, English Regions who says : "Expect a mix of great story telling, focussing on people and places, and debates on the issues that really matter to local communities, wherever they are." Or to put it another way, expect lots of listeners to switch off.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

I REFERRED recently to the Queen saving string and wrapping paper at Christmas for the next year's presents. A thought occurred to me as Her Majesty posed for the picture a few days ago with David Cameron's Cabinet. Wouldn't our economy be in better shape if it were in the hands of the 86-year-old lady who saves string, rather than anyone else in the photograph?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Joules which started brewing in Stone in 1780

Henry Mitchell and William Butler of M&B

Mitchell's & Butler's had its own fire brigade

Bitter brewery memory

A new book on Britain's lost breweries charts some famous names from the West Midlands. **MARK ANDREWS** talks to the author

IT SEEMS incredible to think that anybody would pay nearly £2 million for a brewery and then pour its beer down the drain.

And it certainly turned out not to be a particularly wise move by Greenall Whitley, when it bought Brierley Hill's much-loved J P Simpkiss brewery, in 1985.

"It's scandalous really, I don't know why they would have bought it," says Chris Arnot, the author of Britain's Lost Breweries and Beers.

Greenall Whitley was a large regional brewer in the north-west of England, which decided the best way to boost its market share was to buy up the smaller, local brewers. And close them down.

The reaction from Black Country drinkers was hostile to say the least. Mary Arnett, who ran The Castle, Lye, recalls how the pub had been doing a healthy lunchtime trade before the takeover.

"But the regulars didn't like the new beers at all, they liked Simpkiss Bitter in particular," she says. "We lost a lot of trade.

"We stuck it out for another 10 months, and then took early retirement. There was a rapid turnover of licensees after that, until the pub closed and they pulled it down."

The demise of the Simpkiss brewery, which was demolished shortly after the Greenall takeover, is one of 30 featured in Arnot's book.

Best

Birmingham-born Arnot is well familiar with the Black Country's famous beers, describing how he would regularly visit the region with his father-in-law during the 1970s to sample the likes of Batham's, Holden's and Simpkiss.

"For me Batham's is still the best, I can't think of a better beer than Batham's," he says, referring to the brewery which still continues to thrive from its base in Brierley Hill.

During the course of writing the book, Arnot spoke to a number of former Simpkiss employees, who each have a fascinating tale to tell about their time at the Dennis Brewery behind the Foley Arms – now the New Wellington – pub in Brettell Lane.

Former drayman Tony Dutton recalls the occasion he had to take brewery owner Dennis Simpkiss's son Jonathan with him, and was warned by Simpkiss senior that under no circumstances should he allow his sports-car loving son to get behind the wheel of the lorry. But probably the most entertaining story comes from former maintenance man Dennis Hale, who recalled the potency of the brewery's famous Old Ale.

An aerial view of the Simpkiss brewery in Brierley Hill – it was demolished shortly after the Greenall Whitley takeover

The former Foley Arms, Brierley Hill – now the New Wellington

Joseph Paskin Simpkiss

Author Chris Arnot – regular visits

"I remember three gas men working outside the Foley Arms one day and coming in at lunchtime to sample the Old," he tells Arnot.

"They had three pints each. But when it was time to go back to work, one of them couldn't stand up. He had to be carried out by his mates."

Mind you, that sounds pretty tame compared to the antics on the last day of Joule's brewery at Stone, near Stafford, in November, 1974. There, the employees marked the closure of their workplace by sinking a few pints of Royal Ale, not far off nine per cent in alcohol content, and then going for a swim in the fermenting vat.

Joule's laid claim to being Britain's oldest brewery, although that is based on the fact that Augustinian monks had been brewing on the site in the 12th century, and had finished long before Francis Joule came along in 1780.

The monks would bless each barrel and mark it with a red cross, which would later become the trademark of the brewery.

Francis's son John became the first English brewer to export to New York – "American servicemen stationed in Stone and Market Drayton during World War Two were somewhat taken aback to find Joule's beers over here," says Arnot. "No doubt they complained it was served too warm."

Joule's was another brewery to suffer after being taken over by a regional giant, having been bought by Bass-Charrington in 1970, and numerous cost-cutting measures were introduced, from replacing flaked maize with wheat flour, and reducing the number of checks on the running heats of the fermentation vessels.

"There had been complaints from publicans," recalls brewery man Tony Heeley. "Customers had been saying that Joule's didn't taste as good as it once did."

Four years after the takeover, Bass decided to close the historic brewery, and transfer production to Burton-upon-Trent.

The closure was not well-received by real ale buffs in the area, with members of the newly formed Campaign for Real Ale branch organising a mock funeral procession through the streets of Stone. Today a supermarket occupies part of the old brewery site.

Biggest

But the biggest of all the Midland breweries featured in Arnot's book is Mitchell's & Butler's, which in its prime had plants in Smethwick, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

The Wolverhampton plant, which produced Springfield bitter, closed in 1991, and was later hit by a devastating fire, while the M&B headquarters in Cape Hill, Smethwick, closed in 2002.

Arnot says that one common theme throughout his research was the fondness which many former brewery workers had for their workplaces. "They really loved their jobs, despite the fact that they were often doing really hard jobs, moving things around," says Arnot, who is 63. "

"Part of that was down to the fact they had quite a fondness for beer, but I think it was also because the breweries looked after their workers, in terms of low-rent houses and sponsored sporting events, there was quite an esprit de corps.

"The brewery owners were quite paternalistic, they were the last of their breed."

One interesting thing that is evident from Arnot's book is that while the breweries have long disappeared, many of the beers have survived – some of them being reintroduced by enterprising microbreweries.

The Simpkiss brand, for example, has been bought by Enville Ales, which produces the ale from its brewery just outside Stourbridge, and Joule's was relaunched by former Bass executive Steve Nuttall at Market Drayton in 2009, with the help of Heeley, who dug out the old recipe. You can still buy a pint of M&B too, although it is now produced by Brain's Brewery in Burton upon Trent, while small independent brewers are now brewing at the Springfield and Highgate sites.

And while it's easy to feel nostalgic for the famous old breweries of the Midlands, Arnot says the choice and quality of today's beers is probably better than it has ever been.

"Today's microbreweries use the finest ingredients, whereas that is something the old breweries weren't always on top of. Today it's a more discerning market compared to the old days, when they were simply brewing for the working man."

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Visitors to library can use Skype

USERS of Cannock Library can now communicate with friends and family around the world for free with the introduction of a Skype service.

Library members will be able to sign up for a free one-hour use with help from staff.

Staffordshire County Councillor Pat Corfield, Cabinet Member for Culture and Communities said: "Skype is an absolutely marvellous tool that allows people to keep in touch with their friends and family from all over the world and I'm delighted that we have been able to get it up and running at Cannock library.

Pushing

"I appreciate that you do need a computer and a broadband connection and not everyone has that, so I have been pushing to make it available in our libraries so that more people can get to use it."

Within ten minutes of the equipment being installed the library had its first request from a customer wishing to speak to her husband abroad.

First user Patricia Jackson said: "I was so relieved because I could now contact my husband in the Middle East."

Church now 25 years old

A HEDNESFORD church, rebuilt after subsidence affected the original building has celebrated 25 years.

Bishop of Wolverhampton the Rt Rev Clive Gregory and other church dignitaries joined members of the congregation at St Peter's for a service of celebration. Year 5 St Peter's Primary CoE pupils also sang

The first St Peter's was built in Church Hill in 1868. Rev Michael Waters, vicar at the time of the rebuild, told how cracks had appeared in the building and of the battle to get money from the coal board.

The church eventually won £280,000 for the new building.

Car catches fire

FIREFIGHTERS were called to a car that burst into flames in Cannock. The driver of the silver Vauxhall Zafira stopped in Manor Avenue, opposite the library, and got out before the vehicle was engulfed in flames on December 20. An electrical fault was to blame.

Mortgage help from council for first buyers

by Marion Brennan

STRUGGLING first-time buyers in Cannock will be helped onto the property ladder by the Cannock Chase Council – which will top up their deposits under new plans.

The authority has ringfenced £2 million to help buyers who are unable to afford the large deposits required by most lenders concerned about borrowers defaulting on their loans.

Cannock Chase Council has joined with Lloyds TSB to help 70 people across the district.

The council will put 20 per cent of the asking price in the bank's account, with the lender asking for a five per cent deposit. Most mortgage lenders require a 10 to 15 per cent deposit.

The bank still arranges a 95 per cent mortgage but with the extra security provided by the council, the interest rate will be lower than buyers would normally pay with a smaller deposit.

The scheme has been given the go-ahead by the council's ruling cabinet and is waiting on approval by the full council. It is expected to be available in Cannock Chase by early summer. The council risks losing money if a buyer defaults but stands to benefit from a generous interest rate if all goes according to plan.

Deposit

Under the scheme, if a couple bought a property for £120,000, they would need to provide a five per cent deposit of £6,000 and would be provided with £24,000 from the council.

Together, this would provide the 25 per cent deposit required by lenders to secure a preferential rate on their mortgage. The authority's housing leader Councillor Frank Allen said: "We're delighted to recommend the Local Lend a Hand scheme to full council for approval.

"Getting more people on to the housing ladder will also stimulate the local housing market and benefit the wider local economy."

Borrowers will be able to select any existing property in Cannock, Rugeley, Hednesford and surrounding villages up to a maximum loan of £135,000 – but it does not include new build homes.

Fed-up residents form an action group over parking

FED-UP residents in a Cannock street have hit out at inconsiderate shoppers and commuters who, they claim, regularly park outside their homes.

Some householders in Newhall Street say they are forced to leave their cars up to a quarter-of-a-mile from their homes because of the daily scramble for parking spaces.

Neighbours in Newhall Street, have formed a campaign group which is being backed by County Councillor Pat Corfield.

There is a call for residents' parking bays to be installed after putting up with years of misery. Sales adviser Kathryn Robinson said the problem existed 13 years ago when she moved into the street and has got steadily worse.

Councillor Corfield attended a meeting with highways officers at her home to thrash out a solution.

Infuriating

Mrs Robinson, aged 43, said: "I don't think motorists realise how infuriating it is when they park in front of our houses or block our drives.

"There are certain individuals whose cars are there every day who won't pay to park in Cannock.

"We have put messages on Facebook appealing to them but they are so defiant about what they are doing."

Householders have formed the Newhall Street Parking Action Group. Mrs Robinson said alternative parking in Victoria Street was limited to two hours which meant residents had to continually move their cars.

Councillor Corfield said has promised to take the matter to the joint parking committee of the county and district councils.

Funding cuts are criticised by leader

CUTS to Government funding in Cannock Chase have been labelled "disastrous" by the district council's leader.

Councillor George Adamson said cash would be reduced by around 20 per cent over the next two years. The only place in Staffordshire which has been hit harder by the budget cuts than Cannock Chase is Lichfield. Its city council will lose 8.93 per cent of its funding in the next year alone.

Councillor Adamson said his authority was now having to look again at its budget, as the cuts had left it £185,000 worse off than anticipated.

He blasted the decision as "illogical" as Cannock Chase is the poorest area in the county in every aspect such as housing and health.

Staffordshire County Council had its funding slashed by 2.2 per cent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue has been hit by cuts of 4.4 per cent.

Steve Turner, Alan Green, his son Stuart and Ben Pickering ready for the event

Setting sail on tradition yet again

A TRADITIONAL Boxing Day boat race returned to Chasewater after three years following the completion of a £5.5 million restoration project.

More than 100 spectators turned out to watch the post-Christmas event, which has been a custom at the Chase Sailing Club, near Burntwood, for 57 years.

In the past two years the tradition has been kept alive with a walk around the reservoir dam while the water was drained.

Sam Pickering, aged 18, from Aldridge won the race in his single-handed Phantom boat.

Committee member Roger Round said: "It was great to be sailing again on Boxing Day. Sixteen boats took part, of all different kinds.

"We got a good crowd out to watch, and thankfully the weather was kind to us. Sam has been sailing here with his brother Ben for six or seven years but he still did well to beat the more established members of the club."

Work began on draining the lake in January 2010 so that vital repair work to prevent possible flooding of nearby homes could be carried out. The reservoir is now filled again.

NEWS in brief

Talks over Hoard site monument

CAMPAIGNERS calling for a monument to be built to mark the place where the Staffordshire Hoard was discovered will meet with council officers in the new year to discuss the plans.

The Anglo-Saxon treasure known as the Staffordshire Hoard was found in Hammerwich in July 2009.

Brownhills resident Doug Birch said campaigners wanted a viewing platform to be placed near the location.

He said: "Visitors will be able to look at the spot where it was found. We are going to be working with council officers in the new year to get something done. There are a number of councils involved."

Church in plea to donate old books

RESIDENTS in Penkridge are being asked to donate books they no longer need to St Michael and All Angels Church.

Members of the church will be collecting books throughout January and February for a book fair which will be held next month.

To arrange a collection telephone 01785 715927 or 01785 714355.

Floral exhibition featured on DVD

A DVD is available of a Rugeley church flower festival.

The disc, called Magical Moments, features all the floral exhibits from the 2012 St Augustine's Flower Festival.

Copies are available from the parish office or from Joan Surplice on 01889 800465. Cost is £3, with 50p added for postage.

Schoolboy's leg stuck in railings

A BOY was rescued by fire crews after getting his leg stuck in railings as he climbed a school fence.

The 12-year-old, a pupil at Cannock Chase High School in Hednesford Road, was trapped for 15 minutes before being cut free on December 20. He was unhurt.

Get in the swim

A 10-week course of adult swimming lessons starts at Penkridge Leisure Centre, Cannock Road, tomorrow (Friday). Lessons are available between 7 and 9pm. For more details or to enrol, call 01785 714152.

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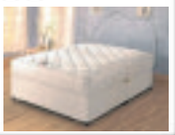

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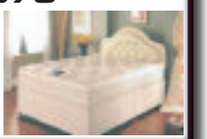

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NEWS

Drivers told 20 is plenty outside county's schools

DRIVERS will be forced to slow down outside schools across the county, with new 20mph zones to be introduced.

Council bosses have announced the new measures at five schools in response to pleas from residents fed-up of motorists driving dangerously and putting children at risk.

Schools to benefit are Chase Terrace Technology College, in Burntwood, John Bamford Junior School, Rugeley and Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School. Nether Stowe School, in Lichfield and Bishton Hall, in Stafford have also been chosen.

Flashing signs that warn drivers they are travelling too fast will also be in operation during the day under the 20 is Plenty scheme run by the county council.

Reduce

Highways chief councillor Mike Maryon said: "Speed indication devices which display and record the speed of every vehicle that passes past these schools will encourage drivers to reduce their speed and help protect the schoolchildren and other pedestrians.

"School speed indication devices will operate when pupils are arriving in the morning and leaving in the afternoon. They may operate at different times during the day only if it is deemed that there is a significant requirement."

The scheme was first launched in 2010 and will continue to benefit thousands of schoolchildren.

Quad bike and car collide

A QUAD bike and car collided in Pye Green Road, Cannock, forcing the closure of the road. Two men travelling on the machine were taken to hospital with suspected back injuries. The road was closed at around 5.30pm on December 21 while a fuel spillage was cleared up.

Play centre now open

Councillor Bob Todd, Sheila Dunning and Sean Felton open the centre

A CHILDREN'S play centre has been launched in Cannock – with 10 per cent of the profits going to a charity that reunites parents with their abducted youngsters.

Sean Felton, from Norton Canes who travelled to Thailand to rescue his three-year-old son when he was taken by his estranged mother, is behind the Jungle Joes venture on the Martindale Estate at Hawks Green.

The soft play and activity centre can cater for up to 60 children. It is planned to open an outdoor play area in the summer.

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NEWS

Gymnastics call-up has Caitlin beaming

Caitlin Tsang, aged12, from Heath Hayes, has made it into the British gymnastics team

A GYMNAST from Cannock has somersaulted her way to a top international title.

Caitlin Tsang, aged 12, of Heath Hayes, travelled to Belgium to compete in the Coupe Avenir, taking on gymnasts from across Europe. And she came back with two gold medals after winning the 13 and under category and the team competition.

Caitlin, a pupil at Kingsmead Technology College in Hednesford, has also been selected as a reserve in the British team at the forthcoming Australia Youth Olympic Festival.

Health boss tells of the pressures on hospitals

A HEALTH boss says the future of small hospitals across the country could be shaped by developments in Staffordshire.

Services are likely to be stripped from Stafford and Cannock Chase hospitals after experts ruled that the trust which runs them is not viable in the long term.

Other hospitals across the Midlands, including New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton and Walsall Manor Hospital, will be asked to fill the void.

Lyn Hill-Tout, chief executive of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust which runs Stafford and Cannock hospitals said district general hospitals elsewhere were facing similar pressures.

Support

The independent experts, appointed by health watchdog Monitor, are expected to order a radical restructure of Mid Staffs. They say otherwise only "significant financial support" will enable the trust to operate for the next five years.

Mrs Hill-Tout said: "Mid Staffs is not financially sustainable in its current form because, despite all the efforts not only of the trust but of the local health service, we do not have a plan which brings us to financial break even by 2015.

"Similar financial challenges are being faced across the country by smaller general hospitals.

"This is because medicine has and will continue to become more specialised and smaller hospitals cannot attract or resource the specialist teams and infrastructure required.

"Although specialist services cannot be provided in every hospital, communities need to be able to access specialist care.

"One solution is to share services with larger, specialist hospitals, something Mid Staffs has already begun," she added.

by Mark Mudie

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LETTERS

Party is working together for future

FOLLOWING letters in The Chronicle of December 13 I would like to disclaim the comments expressed.

As Conservatives, we have been saying since the A&E unit closed between 10pm and 8am that Cannock Hospital was in danger of closing or being passed as an 'unwelcome' relative to another local trust.

It has been proven that while Stafford Hospital has many reported problems, Cannock operates to high standards and there is not one single complaint from any recognised body. In fact, there is only praise.

Conservatives have been working together for the best future of Cannock Hospital. We still have a long way to go, but Conservatives are working all the way with all partners to bring Cannock Hospital through these difficult times hopefully to a brighter future.

ANN BERNARD
Shadow health leader

Crocodile tears claim over hospital

IT IS nice to hear Councillor Janos Toth come out in support of Cannock Hospital, but what suggestions has he to achieve this? None.

He is quick to attack the industry and effort of Aidan Burley, who is doing everything to achieve a solution. The truth is that Labour are actively working against the interests of the hospital management. As we know, the hospital is under utilised, hence the deficits. Labour are now tendering for the same groups to come into the council building that hospital management hoped would fill their own vacant space and ease their financial problems.

These are crocodile tears from Councillor Toth. This hospital was built by a Conservative government with much support from local people. To aid his Parliamentary campaign in 2015, he would love to be able to say our hospital was closed by the Conservatives. If it does close, and we all hope and pray it does not, the blame can be laid fairly and squarely on the last Labour government and its insistence on going for Foundation Trust Status. Stafford and Cannock Hospitals have been in serious financial trouble for at least eight years, debt which Labour allowed to increase year on year.

Councillor Toth, tell us what you would do if you were our MP to keep the hospital open.

COUNCILLOR PAUL SNAPE
Conservative Leader
Cannock Chase District Council

Christmas concert one to remember

I WAS fortunate enough to attend a Christmas concert on December13 at Huntington primary school, organised by Cannock Chase Light Orchestra, founded by oboeist Kevin Mathews. It was the orchestra's first concert, after rehearsing for only three months, and was all set up by Mr Mathews in September. The orchestra practises weekly at Littleton Green Community School on Thursday evenings.

They are made up of players of different musical abilities, all of whom have a love for music and enjoy playing. They were accompanied by a small number of children from Year Six making up the choir.

Their medley of songs from The Sound of Music was a delight to hear. Speaking to Mr Mathews after the show, he assured me this was only the start of bigger things to come. As an ex-parish councillor for Huntington, I felt it my duty to offer my full support in his endeavours. This was certainly a Christmas concert to remember.

COLIN SMITH
Cannock

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Festive fair success

I WOULD like to pass on a big thank you to Sainsbury's, Cannock, from the Friends of Hollygrove School for its donation of a stationery set towards our Christmas fair. The fair raised more than £1,800 towards flooring for an outdoor adventure playground. It was also put towards Christmas entertainers for the children. None of this would have been possible without the kind donations received from business and the local community. Thanks for supporting our school.

RACHEL POOLEY
Hollygrove Primary School

Funding for park fantastic

NEWS that the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery fund has awarded more than £2m for improvements to Hednesford Park is fantastic.

The year 2012 was a phenomenal one for the town. We saw the dedication of the second phase of the mining memorial, wonderful events to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, the award of the Freedom of the Town to the Staffordshire Regimental Association and the opening of a multi-million pound retail development.

The funding recognises the contributions of all those involved in submitting the bid. On behalf of the town council, I would like to place on record our sincere thanks to the Friends of Hednesford Park and the officers of Cannock Chase Council for their dedication, commitment and hard work.

The improvements will ensure the park continues to be an outstanding leisure and recreation venue.

PETER HARRISON
Town Council clerk

Information plea on family research

I AM looking for information, for my family research, about an Elsie Cordelia Myatt, nee Thompson, who died in Stafford 1966 aged 79. She was born in 1887 in Lambley Nottinghamshire and I believe she trained as a teacher. Her marriage took place in Staffordshire late in 1913 but I do not know the forename of her husband.

I can find no trace of any children but would welcome any information from those who may have known her. I can be contacted at jesparrow@hotmail.co.uk or by post.

JILL ELIZABETH SPARROW
Birch Cottage
59 Alfreton Road
South Normanton
Derbyshire DE55 2AP

Worries over use of cash from land sale

THANKS to the Lottery funding grant that was recently approved, my concerns for improvements to Hednesford Park have been removed. However, I still have concerns over where the money received from the sale of land at the Pye Green Valley, and West of Pye Green Road will be spent.

That 106 agreement money should be allocated to improve local amenities in the areas of Hednesford, Rawnsley, Brindley Heath and Pye Green, ie play areas, football pitches and at the Museum of Cannock Chase, as there will never be a better opportunity.

JOHN O'LEARY
Heather Road,
Hednesford

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NEWS

Lions dish out Christmas cheer for the needy

Rugeley & District Lions president Ed Rule presents food sacks to Cannock Hospital staff over the festive period

RUGELEY and District Lions Club once again played Santa by delivering more than 80 food sacks over the Christmas period.

Thanks to the generosity of local people over two weekends, enough non-perishable goods were collected by the Lions to help stock the larders of various individuals and families with a few extra treats to help them enjoy the festive season.

Lion Jane Stevenson, who organises the annual event, co-ordinates with a number of local organisations to make sure that the produce goes to those who will benefit the most. This year food sacks were distributed to Age UK, Family Focus, the Royal British Legion and the Young Carers.

Club president Ed Rule said: "Being a Lion is not just for Christmas but throughout the year and Rugeley and District Lions are hoping to recruit more members to assist with similar welfare, service or fundraising activities."

Call 07773 333575 or email: rugeleylions@yahoo.co.uk

Lifeline could be revived

THOUSANDS of leaflets will be sent out in an effort to revive a lifeline for needy people in Burntwood.

Burntwood Lions' traditional Christmas Food Parcel Collection was withdrawn last year because of a shortage of volunteers. However the 25-year-old club's remaining nine members are determined to make deliveries by early February.

Three thousand leaflets will now be distributed asking residents to come forward and offer to collect tins from homes in their street, or at least a few neighbours, in the hope that packages can be put together in time.

The leaflet drop will start on January 14, with door-to-door collections on January 20.

Fundraising chairman John Wallage, announcing the launch of the 'Burntwood Lions Community Volunteers' said: "Due to suggestions and offers of assistance, the club is launching a new way that people can support their community, without becoming a member of Burntwood Lions.

"'Burntwood Lions Community Volunteers' are being formed to allow like minded individuals to assist the Lions by taking responsibility for the immediate area where they live."

He said parcels would be delivered at the end of January or early February.

Anyone interested is asked to email john.wallage239@btinternet.com, including contact details.

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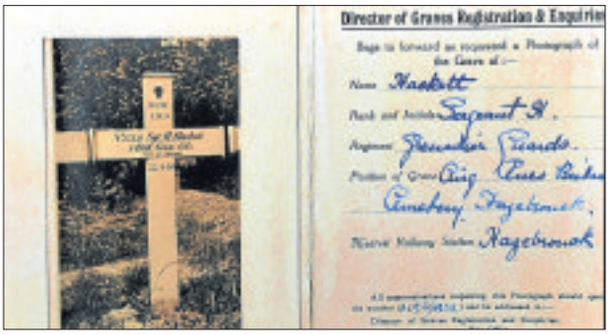

Tribute to a fallen soldier – Sgt Harry Hackett's grave in Hazebrook, France

Harry with his wife Olive, who was told about the truce

Sgt Harry Hackett, left, convalescing in 1916 in Dorchester after being injured

Sgt Harry Hackett's postcard telling of the truce

A postcard sent to wife tells of Great War truce

THE Christmas truce when British and German soldiers ventured out of the trenches 99 years ago in a touching display of festive spirit is one of the most heartwarming stories of wartime history.

by Louise Jew

Harry Hackett – a Grenadier guard from Old Hill – was among the troops who let bygones be bygones to shake hands, or even play football, with the enemy.

And that discovery led to his great-great nephew, Andy Rudall, embarking on a labour of love to tell the tale of the ancestor he only knew existed after a chance purchase in a charity shop.

Andy, aged 50, of Collis Street, Amblecote, Stourbridge, has now written a book called Neat Little Rows – the Black Country Grenadier, charting his journey of discovery.

Andy, IT manager for a Birmingham law firm, had just bought a book by his favourite author, John Grisham, in Stourbridge's Action Heart shop in 2009 when he was told at the till there was a "two for the price of one deal".

So he browsed the shelves and selected The First Casualty, a crime thriller by Ben Elton set in the First World War. As he read, he became gripped by gruesome descriptions of the trenches and "going over the top" and, later that year he and his wife, Jacqui, visited war graves.

His grandmother, Annie Nock, told him about her uncle Harry, of High Street, Old Hill, who had been in the Grenadier Guards.

He died, aged 27, at the Battle of The Lys as the Germans made a final push before the war ended in 1918.

It set Andy on a trail that led to him discovering photographs of his hero great great uncle and even a postcard showing he was involved in the famous Christmas truce.

Touching postcards from Harry to his wife, Olive, include one, dated October 28 1914, saying: "I never thought anything could happen the same as I have seen this last few days.

"There was about 80 casualties in my company in one day and we have lost five or six officers.

"I hardly know how I got through it all myself . . . about four times as many Germans as there were us, still their losses were far more serious than ours.

"In fact we were told that their dead were piled up so high in front of their trenches that they could not see to fire over them."

In the postcard about the Christmas truce he says: "Dear O, I am sending you this postcard with two of the German soldiers' addresses on, which I got on Boxing Day. I suppose you saw in the papers about us going across, out of the trenches and having a word or two together."

The book is available for £7.99 at the Black Country Living Museum, local branches of Waterstones, on-line at the Amazon website or Lulu or at www.neatlittlerows.co.uk

Andy Rudall with his book Neat Little Rows - The Black Country Grenadier after researching the life of Harry

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NEWS

Lingering concerns over stench from waste plant

Karen Hayward – 'lessened'

David Simner – 'escape the worst'

Michelle McPherson – 'no difference'

RESIDENTS who have suffered foul smells from a Cannock waste plant are not convinced the problem has gone away despite £800,000 of improvements.

by Marion Brennan

Householders living in Newlands Park say they have not noticed any real difference since Biffa cleaned up its act – but believe the real test will come in the spring when temperatures rise.

Nursery manager Karen Hayward, aged 49, who lives in Peregrine Way, half-a-mile away, said: "The problem has not gone away, although it seems to have lessened."

She added: "I'm out at work most days so it's hard to tell for sure but when we do get it, it's very strong."

The Environment Agency recorded around 20 reports of excessive odour seeping from the £24million plant in November. Officials then gave Biffa four months to make amends and will review it in March.

"I'm dreading the summer," said Amy Pagett, 26, who moved to the estate a few weeks ago.

The trainee hairdresser, of Sparrowhawk Way had been warned by neighbours about the stench from an anaerobic digester installed last year at the Poplars plant.

Michelle McPherson, a 38-year-old IT manager, said: "I can't say we've noticed any difference lately."

The mother-of-two added: "The smell has been so bad that we were worried about the health risk to our children. The firm has assured us that there isn't any danger."

Not everyone is bothered by the odour, however. Construction manager David Simner, 33, of Pheasant Way, rarely notices it.

Techniques

He said: "It depends on which way the wind is blowing but we seem to escape the worst of it."

The facility processes up to 120,000 tons of food waste from homes and businesses every year.

Engineering and processing director Dr John Casey said the firm had implemented "the best available techniques"at Cannock to keep odour leakage to a minimum.

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CLUB NEWS

Items are given to foodbank

CANNOCK SOROPTIMISTS

TEAM president Lakhwinder Thompson welcomed members and guests to the Christmas celebration at The Barns.

A traditional Christmas meal was served and entertainment was provided by guitarist and singer Chris Austin. Everyone enjoyed either joining in with the singing or dancing – or both!

This year the club chose to continue their tradition of helping local women and their families at Christmas.

On the evening of the Christmas celebration they donated tins and packets of food to be delivered to the Cannock & District Foodbank on Pye Green Road.

Cannock Soroptimists will be making collections of food items at some of their meetings in 2013 in order to continue to support local families in need.

On the day after the Christmas party several members, led by Soroptimist Carole Holdcroft, joined members of Mill Street Methodist Church at the Warming Welcome Soup Kitchen to cook and serve a hot Christmas meal for more than 65 people. It operates on a weekly basis, providing a hot meal for those who wouldn't otherwise have one.

As in previous years, club members also provided gifts for women and children who spent Christmas at Pathway, the refuge for women victims of domestic violence.

Amazing Grace has ladies entertained

Past chairman Eve Eustace, chairman Pat Preece and special guest Grace Wyatt

AT the club's Christmas luncheon at The Barns Restaurant, chairman, Pat Preece welcomed all the ladies and gave a special mention to social secretary Margaret Parkes, who had been poorly and to Ruth Rastall who had recently lost her husband Bernard.

Mrs. Joyce Baxter said grace and the ladies then sat down to enjoy a superb Christmas Luncheon.

After the loyal toast Mrs Preece introduced the special guest, Grace Wyatt, a very musically talented young lady who kept everyone enthralled with her beautiful voice and her choice of operatic arias. Mrs Preece played her piano for the sing-along of Christmas carols.

CANNOCK CHASE LADIES' PROBUS CLUB

Past chairman Eve Eustace gave the Vote of Thanks and presented a donation to Grace, wishing her well for the future.

Lions get the party started

CANNOCK LIONS

CANNOCK Lions Club invited some local senior citizens to St Luke's church hall in Cannock to tuck into a fabulous Christmas lunch.

Lions donned their pinnies and cooked up homemade soup, turkey with all the trimmings followed by Christmas pudding and mince pies. The wine flowed and all had a good time.

Organist Jean Martyn joined them for lunch and regaled the audience with tales about her experiences since she appeared on Britain's Got Talent. Shirley Brown got the party going, urging everyone to join in with her singing.

Thanks to Aidan Burley MP, Lidl, Asda, Famous Grouse and Phil Dickenson for donating some of the food and drink.

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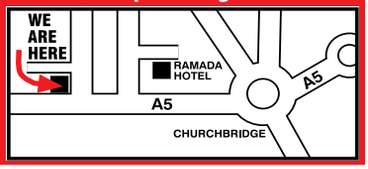

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NEWS

Image released of new community fire station

A COMPUTER-generated image has been released of how the new community fire station at Penkridge will look.

With its smart panelled frontage and large glass windows, the station is set to boast a community room and a gym for firefighters and supervised community groups. It will also have a training area for its staff.

Work is poised to start in spring next year, when more detailed timescales will also be drawn up and unveiled.

An artist's impression of the new-look Penkridge community fire station

Initiative

The new station is part of a £50 million private finance initiative to see 11 new fire stations built across Staffordshire, with others including Chase Terrace and Lichfield. Cannock's community base was one of the first to be built and was opened in February of last year.

Planning permission for the new station in Penkridge was granted last month.

The existing facility, in Boscomoor Lane, was built in 1972, and has been described as "very tired" and costly to maintain. It was also designed to different specifications and was made when the station was purely a reactive service. Firefighters have been actively involved in the design of the new community station and work is set to be carried out by Contractor Blue3.

All 11 new stations are expected to have been completed by the end of 2015.

PFI project manager Norma Putman said: "We look forward to giving the residents of Penkridge and surrounding areas a community fire station they can be proud of.

"Our first PFI project, which saw the build of three new stations and the rebuild of a further seven, is now complete.

"The project has been a huge success and the community facilities attracted over 2,000 bookings last year alone, we hope this project will be equally as successful."

by Catherine Dalton

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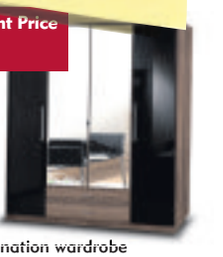

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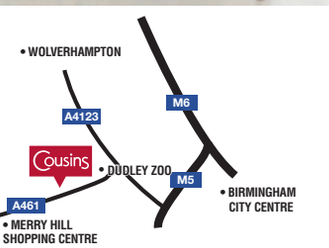

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NEWS

Cancer screening saved my life, says engineer

Charles Gibson, of Rugeley, who had a successful cancer operation after it was detected by health screening programme funded by his employers JCB

A JCB engineer has praised a company-wide cancer screening programme after claiming it saved his life.

Charles Gibson, aged 55, was among almost 600 UK employees aged 50 and over who took part in prostate cancer screening funded by JCB.

His decision proved to be a life-saver as he was subsequently diagnosed with the disease and underwent a successful five-hour operation to remove his prostate gland. Two other workers also underwent treatment after screening showed they also had prostate cancer.

Father-of-two Charles, of Armitage, has now returned to work full-time at JCB Cab Systems in Rugeley in his role as a material engineer.

He said: "It knocks you back when you're told you have cancer, but I'm so grateful to JCB for running the screening programme and the fact this got picked up. I don't think I'd be here now if I didn't go for that test."

All-clear

Charles must now attend regular check-ups for the next five years before he can be given the all-clear.

JCB's Dr Paul Williams said: "JCB takes the health of its employees very seriously."

In October, around 100 female employees aged over 40 underwent breast cancer screening.

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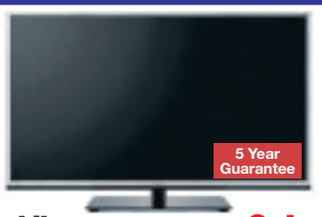

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EATING OUT

Restaurant now doubly inviting after extension

by Mark Shipp

AN award-winning Cannock restaurant has doubled in size – and will host an official relaunch early in the new year.

The Dilshad, in Cannock Road, Chadsmoor, has moved into the old Bargain Booze store next door to increase its covers from 48 to 96. The kitchen area has been moved and a new VIP area, seating 12 people, has been unveiled.

Manager Tony Uddin said feedback had already proved favourable. The restaurant has been established in its current location since 1979, one of the longest-standing eateries in the town. It has forged a winning name among its clientele and has picked up a clutch of awards, including a Taste of Staffordshire Restaurant of the Year and the 2012 West Midlands winner of the Tiffin Cup. It is also home to the UK's hottest curry, the Dilshad Inferno.

Response

Mr Uddin said he hoped the restaurant's extension would further enhance its reputation. "We have been thinking about it for a while, and we are delighted to have gone ahead with it," he said.

"Feedback has so far been good and we've had a good response from regular customers and new diners."

The VIP area has also proved a big draw. It can be booked up by a party for use all night.

Additional staff have been taken on, while the menu, already one of the Dilshad's big attractions, is constantly updated to keep it fresh.

My family and I were given a sneak preview at the new-look restaurant and were left in no doubt that it will only serve to bolster its reputation. The transformation is a real eye-opener. The space is such that it is hard to believe it seated just under 50 people beforehand, particularly as it always appeared busy.

The new-look Dilshad Indian restaurant in Cannock Road, Chadsmoor

Portions

The décor gives it a light, airy, outlook and the layout still allows for people to have a cosy meal-for-two as well as bigger bookings.

As ever, the staff were courteous and ever-generous with their portions. Popadums were followed by, for myself, hash lawajab, duck cooked in a fairly hot sauce with green chili, garlic and ginger, and for the other half by the makhani chicken. Even she was tempted by the variations on offer on the extensive menu, which features fusion dishes and specialities to go alongside the traditional curry offerings. Needless to say it was polished off with gusto before desserts followed,

A launch night featuring dignitaries and entertainment will be held towards the end of January.

The Dilshad is open seven days a week from 5.30pm. To book a table, call 01543 570264 or 466587.

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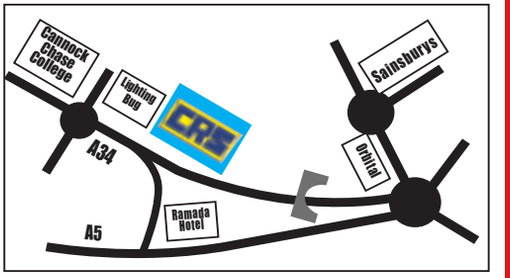

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NEWS

Company lands deal for student facilities facelift

A RUGELEY leisure business has won a third contract for a major refurbishment of student facilities at Cardiff University.

Kribensis Leisure will be carrying out the £250,0000 refit in the university's student accommodation block, working to a design drawn up by its sister company GMP design.

The contract involves a new student lounge, with meeting facilities, a vending area and a 'chill zone'.

The design includes GMP's specially developed Skype pods as well as iPod dock booths.

The firm is based on the Towers Business Park in Rugeley and was established 10 years ago.

Pilot walks again after being hurt in jet crash

A PILOT from Cheslyn Hay is walking again after being seriously injured in an horrific crash.

Sqdn Ldr Paul Evans, a former pupil at Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School, broke his spine in the crash between two Tornado jets off the coast of Scotland five months ago, which claimed the lives of three pilots.

Sqdn Ldr Paul Evans

He was in intensive care for more than three months following the collision south of Wick on July 3.

Sqn Ldr Evans has now left Headley Court Military Hospital in Surrey and returned to Scotland.

His brother, a technical support officer from Hednesford, said he was now walking unaided and had recovered his speech.

Dave Evans, 42, of Wimblebury, said: "He started walking again about six weeks ago which was fantastic news. He is also talking again.

"Immediately after the crash his speech was very slurred but it's back to normal now. He is well on the road to recovery."

Blessing

His brother still does not remember anything about the accident, not even going into work that morning. "But in some ways that is a blessing," said Dave.

The 46-year-old father, who used to live in Kingsway, Essington, near Wolverhampton, joined the RAF at 30 and served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He was previously stationed in Germany but now lives in Forres, Scotland, and is stationed at RAF Lossiemouth.

Dave added: "He's receiving daily physio and hydrotherapy treatment near his home in Scotland. We're delighted at his progress."

Snub for town by Christmas shoppers

CHRISTMAS shoppers snubbed Cannock town centre with footfall down 20 per cent on last year.

Weekly figures show numbers heading to Cannock Shopping Centre fell from 127,500 last December to 101,500 this year.

Stafford posted a modest 0.5 per cent fall for the same week but bosses were confident of a better festive period than in 2011.

Traders in Rugeley are also pleased, reporting increased sales on last year.

Cannock Shopping Centre manager Natal Chapman said she was at a loss to explain the figures for the week starting December 10.

"Footfall is down, there's no doubt about that. I'm not sure why," she said.

"Perhaps shoppers are still a little bit wary with the state of the economy."

Collision near pub

A WOMAN was taken to hospital after a car and bus collided at around 1pm on December 19. It happened on Stafford Road between Cannock bus station and the Fern and Fallow. Two other fem-ale bus passengers were treated at the scene.

Authority backing for Armed Forces

CANNOCK Chase Council will be signing the Staffordshire Armed Forces Community Covenant to pledge its support to the local armed forces community in the district and the county.

The council's cabinet made the decision to sign the deal at their meeting on December 20 and this will now be done early in 2013.

The Armed Forces Community Covenant aims to encourage communities to support the armed forces and to encourage activities which help to integrate members of the armed forces into local life.

Signing the covenant will also enable the council and local groups in Cannock Chase to bid for funding.

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NEWS

Stalwart honoured for 40 years' service

From left, Backhoe Business Unit manager Steve Carrington, Bob Parnell, Lord Lieutenant Ian Dudson and Ken Jones

A STALWART JCB worker has been honoured for 40 years' service. Bob Parnell, of Rugeley, reached the milestone alongside colleague Ken Jones.

Bob joined in February 1972 as a draughtsman in the drawing office and is now principal engineer for the Backhoe Loader Business Unit at the World HQ at Rocester. Ken, of Uttoxeter, joined seven months after Bob as a machinist in the machine shop and is currently a nightshift supervisor with the Backhoe Loader Business Unit. To mark their service milestone, Bob and Ken were presented with commemorative scale models of backhoes by the HM Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire Ian Dudson.

Steve Carrington, JCB Backhoe Loader managing director, said: "I'd like to say a personal thank you to both Bob and Ken for their long and loyal service. It is people like them who make JCB successful."

Schools' staff to transfer

THOUSANDS of school workers will transfer to a private firm after the county council's scrutiny committee ruled the deal should stand.

Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent members of the authority had joined forces to insist the transfer was brought before a corporate review committee.

Under the plans agreed by the cabinet, 4,000 school cooks, cleaners and grounds maintenance staff will move to a new venture with Capita from April, with the authority retaining a minority stake. After an hour of debate, the committee voted by seven to two in favour of the ruling Tory group's decision. Concerns had been raised about Capita's majority 51 per cent interest in the joint venture, while doubts were expressed about ambitious growth plans which bosses say will create 1,613 jobs over 10 years.

Scrutiny

But corporate review committee chairman Councillor Alan White said opponents had failed to come up with a viable alternative.

He said: "The committee was satisfied that after going through the education select committee and our committee, there had been sufficient scrutiny and our concerns had been laid to rest."

Unions claim the deal has been rushed through , while Councillor Ron Clarke, a Labour member of the education select scrutiny committee, said: "We have grave concerns and reservations regarding the anticipated growth in the long-term for the necessary safeguarding of jobs and services."

Council chiefs insist school support services were under threat due to cuts in Government funding and say jobs and services are protected by the Capita deal.

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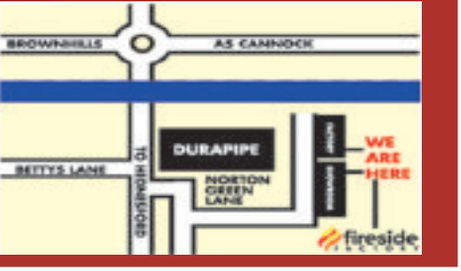

NEWS

Spread the warmth is plea by Age UK

PEOPLE are being asked to help look after elderly neighbours and relatives during the cold winter months as part of Age UK South Staffordshire's Spread the Warmth campaign.

It comes after figures show around 50 older people are thought to die in the Cannock area each year where exposure to the cold has played a role. The charity wants people to take up a big winter pledge, which includes popping in to see older friends or relatives, helping them with shopping or clearing driveways.

Coats, gloves, scarves, hats and jumpers can all be taken to Age UK shops in Cannock, Burntwood or Hednesford.

Groundwork starts on village cemetery

Council leader Brian Edwards and ground maintenance inspector Andy Aston mark the start of work on the new cemetery in Strawberry Lane, Great Wyrley

WORK has begun on a new cemetery boasting 8,000 plots which will provide burial space in two South Staffordshire villages for 50 years.

Local developer Ken Lees gifted the 12-acre site in Great Wyrley to South Staffordshire Council in a deal understood to have saved local taxpayers nearly £250,000. The new Strawberry Lane cemetery, about the size of five rugby pitches, off Upper Landywood Lane, is also expected to meet demand in neighbouring Cheslyn Hay.

Workers moved on to the site before Christmas, to carry out landscaping work.

Schools to hear academy news

THREE Chase primary schools will find out early in the new year if they will be forced to convert into academies in a bid to improve standards.

In all, some 15 schools across the West Midlands not achieving Government set targets are at risk off the back of disappointing Key Stage 2 SATs exams, which are sat by 10 and 11-year-olds at the end of Year Six.

These include Boney Hay Primary in Burntwood, Bridgtown Primary and Churchfield CofE (C) Primary School in Rugeley.

Prime Minister David Cameron wants 400 of the country's weakest primaries converted by the end of 2013 but headteachers in the area say academy status is unlikely to improve anything.

by Laura Blyth

Measures

Schools where fewer than 60 per cent of pupils achieve Level 4 in English and maths, and are down on progress measures for English and maths, are deemed below standard.

A school needs to be down on all three of the measures if it is to be considered to become an academy, which effectively takes it out of local authority control and is run by another organisation instead.

Academies are publicly-funded independent schools that benefit from greater freedoms including the ability to set pay and conditions for staff, freedoms around the curriculum and the ability to change the lengths of terms and school days.

There are currently 932 primary academies in England.

Government spokesman Leigh Dowd: "This has one aim in mind – to drive up standards with immediate effect and to end years of chronic underperformance in schools."

Chasewater ramble date

CHASE & District Group Ramblers head off on an eight-mile walk from Chasewater to include the canal and common this weekend. Meeting time on Sunday, January 6, is the car park opposite the country park's activity centre at 9.30am. Walk leader is John on 01543 686429.

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NEWS

Parcels are made up for domestic abuse victims

ACCOUNTANTS spread some Christmas cheer by helping victims of domestic abuse.

Staff at Dains accountants in Rugeley and Lichfield rallied together to donate food and toiletries to make up much needed parcels for the Pathway Project. The Pathway Project was established in 1991 and provides support to women and children suffering domestic violence.

It manages three women's refuges. while providing support services, counselling and a 24-hour helpline.

Georgina Felles, chairman of 'Dains in the Community' - the corporate social responsibility team within the firm, said: "Pathway Project was a very worthy recipient."

Students serve up a treat for charities

Childcare students Siobhan Garbett, Laura Bird and Tara Birch sell cakes at Crown House

STUDENTS and staff at South Staffordshire College joined together to raise money and awareness for their chosen charities.

A number of activities were held at the college's Volunteer Day, organised by the college and involving students and staff working with local community groups . It involved all four college campuses, at Cannock, Rodbaston, Lichfield and Tamworth.

Cannock Campus Level 3 Childcare students decided to raise money for the Help Harry Help Others charity as part of their volunteer day. The 14 students were inspired after hearing about Harry Moseley, a young boy who battled in vain against an inoperable brain tumour.

The students made a variety of cakes, biscuits and hosted fundraising games and after a successful morning, they raised £70.50 which will be handed over to the charity.

Childcare tutor Debbie Parry said: "I am very proud of how hard all the girls worked together to make their first fundraising event such as success"

Level 2 and Level 3 Beauty students offered basic facials, manicure treatments and relaxing body massage treatments to raise money for Cares Emergency Services, the Fire Service charity.

Farmers warned over phone use

FARMERS have been criticised by villagers for driving around roads in Penkridge while chatting on mobile phones.

Police have mounted a campaign to curb the problem and have been visiting farmers and their staff about residents' safety concerns and warning them of the penalties.

by Kirsten Rawlins

The problems are said to centre around Teddesley Road where there were also calls for its 60mph limit to be reduced to slow down other speeding drivers.

In a statement to residents, Staffordshire Police said: "You said tractors and farm vehicles are travelling down Teddesley Road at speed while the drivers are talking on mobile phones.

"We spoke to the wildlife officer who visits farms on a regular basis. He will be advising all farm workers about the consequences of driving whilst using a mobile phone and the penalties should they be caught."

Parish councillor Veronica Downes said: "The road has just been re-done. The work was only done a few months ago, but the new surface is just encouraging people to put their foot down."

Councillor Bevan Craddock said: "Speeding traffic has been a problem down that road. People have to be so careful driving down there, and if they're big vehicles like tractors they have to be even more careful."

MP's tax cut welcome

MORE than 34,000 Chase residents will see a cut in income tax this year thanks to changes to the government's personal tax allowance. Some 34,364 people across the district will receive an income tax cut from April with 1,718 local people being taken out of tax altogether. Cannock Chase Conservative MP Aidan Burley said: "We are cutting taxes so you keep more of the money you have earned and most notably, as a result of our changes, 1,718 of the lowest earners will be taken out of income tax altogether."

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NEWS

Private cemetery plots are being snapped up

PRESSURES on councils and churches to meet demand for burial spaces has led to more private cemeteries springing up around the Midlands.

The growing need for burial plots led to a private cemetery opening in Burntwood in November. Another is due to open in the summer in Lichfield and a planning application has been lodged to transform a site in Walsall.

Aamer Waheed, boss of Springhill Cemetery Group, is behind the schemes and says he will keep snapping up land to turn into cemeteries where there is a shortage in the future.

The father-of-four, of Reedswood Lane, Walsall, said he first realised there was a lack of burial space in 2006, two years after he had bought land off Walsall Road in Lichfield.

The site is now being transformed into a 30,000 plot cemetery, with hope that burials can start by June next year.

The 51-year-old said: "I was looking to build something like a golf course or sports facility there.

Shortage

"When I spoke to the local authority and realised there was a shortage of burial space in the area I decided to try and make it into a cemetery."

Mr Waheed, who recently submitted a planning application to Walsall Council to create a new 8,000 plot cemetery in Aldridge Road, Walsall, also opened a new private cemetery with 6,000 plots off the A5195 Burntwood Bypass in Burntwood.

Walsall Burial Park serves Walsall, Cannock and Lichfield and many of the plots had been snapped up before it even opened.

Kamran Saleem, general manager for Springhill Cemetery Group, said the firm had seen a large uptake from the Muslim community and a mosque in Small Heath, Birmingham, had bought 1,200 plots.

He said some people preferred to reserve a section so families could be buried together, and added that St Anne's Church, Chasetown, had also reserved cremation and burial sections because of being full to capacity.

An artist's impression of how Aldridge Road Cemetery, Walsall, will look

Burntwood site manager Jonathan Austin

Site owner Aamer Waheed

Lichfield Diocese spokesman Simon Jones said burial plots were very sought-after in some areas, particularly around older churches with limited space.

Anxiety

He said: "Church rules mean that church graveyards are only open to those who live in the parish, are members of the church or very closely related to someone who is.

"There can be a lot of anxiety among people who want to be certain of where they will be laid to rest.

"Interestingly, fees for church burials are often lower than for public cemeteries, though people often don't realise that they are paying for the burial, not the plot of land.

"It is hard to imagine a private cemetery being a cheaper option.

"e are aware that different rules are made for different cemeteries however and would advise people to check the length of the lease in a plot."

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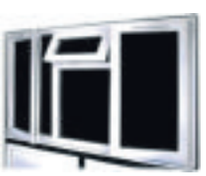

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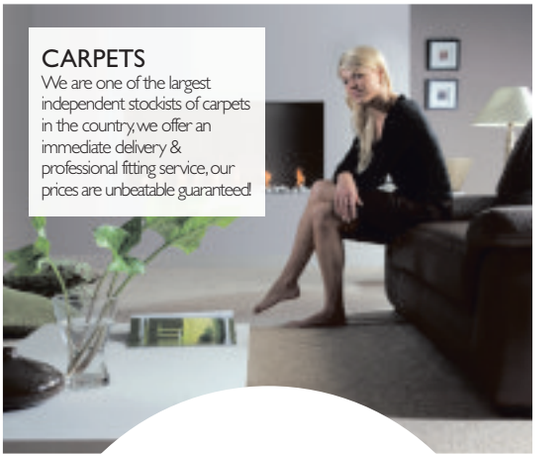

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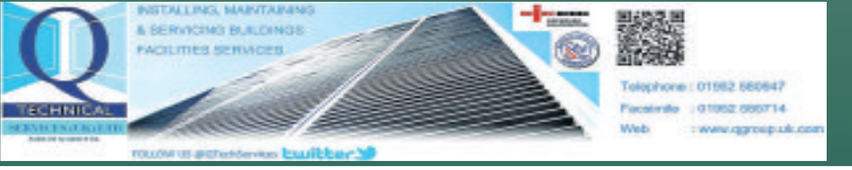

NEWS

Monument idea for Hoard find backed

PARISH councillors have backed plans for a lasting monument to mark the Staffordshire Hoard discovery.

A legacy to the unearthing of the largest ever haul of Anglo-Saxon gold has been proposed. Brownhills resident Brian Stringer is leading the plans.

Hammerwich parish council gave its initial support to the idea, although firm plans need to be developed. It would rely on planning permission, backing from Staffordshire County Council highways officers and funding.

Chairman Vance Wasdell said: "Everybody is in agreement some sort of marker should be put there."

Book plea by Newlife

Newlife volunteer Susan Robinson appeals for books

A CANNOCK retailer is appealing for books and novels to sell in store – and a local Avon lady has offered to help.

Newlife At Home, based in Hemlock Way, sells a range from goods from bed linen to baskets and curtains to candlesticks which are donated from major high-street retailers. All profits are donated to the Newlife Foundation for Disabled Children but the store relies on customers to donate books.

Susan Robinson, of Heath Hayes, has been an Avon representative for 15 years and is also a Newlife volunteer. When she saw the home store was running short she turned to her regular customers to seek donations. She now hopes more of her customers will donate but is also encouraging others to drop their unwanted books into the Newlife At Home store.

Anyone bringing books directly into Newlife At Home can claim money-off vouchers to spend in-store. A 50p voucher is available for every adult book and two children's books qualify for one 50p voucher. Call Newlife At Home for further details on 01543 502780.

Burglar fails in sentence appeal

A ONE-man crime-wave who burgled dozens of homes across Staffordshire and Walsall has lost an appeal against the length of his sentence.

Sean Crabtree, aged 43, of Walsall Wood, was jailed for six-and-a-half years in July. The 43-year-old had pleaded guilty to seven burglaries and asked for a further 40 to be taken into consideration.

He appealed to the Court of Appeal for his sentence to be reduced. But Lord Justice Elias, Mr Justice Hamblen and Judge Brian Barker QC said there was nothing wrong with so long a sentence.

Crabtree had committed break-ins at homes across Norton Canes and Hednesford as well as in Pelsall and Bloxwich.

He broke windows and doors in order to get into people's homes and stole electrical goods, cash and jewellery, often of high se

Tough

In one case, he raided the home of an 83-year-old woman who had been visiting her ill husband in hospital when he struck.

His lawyers argued his sentence was too tough.

But, giving his judgment, Judge Barker said: "There can be no proper criticism of the overall conclusion of the judge. In our view, the resulting sentence cannot be said to be excessive."

Collision leads to delays

DRIVERS were delayed after two cars collided in Cannock. No one was injured in the crash which took place in Barnard Way, near its junction with Hednesford Road, at 8am on December 19. It involved a green Ford Puma and a blue Vauxhall Zafira. Highways officers were sent to the scene to repair damaged road signs.

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DOUBLE OR 3/4 WAS £169
NOW ONLY £129

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DOUBLE WAS £399 NOW ONLY £259
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Double Was £899
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Kingsize Was £949
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Kingsize Was £549
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INCLUDES 2 FREE MEMORY PILLOWS WITH THIS ADVERT ONLY
DOUBLE OR 3/4 WAS £399
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KINGSIZE WAS £449
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DOUBLE WAS £799
NOW ONLY £499
KINGSIZE WAS £899
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MEMORY FOAM MATTRESSES
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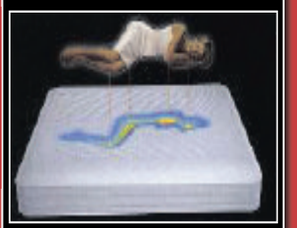
DOUBLE ONLY £149
KINGSIZE ONLY £169

Sleepeezee
NOW IN STORE BODY SCAN



The Body Scan indicates areas of your body that require higher and lower levels of support and selects a mattress that is designed specifically for your body type and prefered sleeping position.

Body Scan eliminates the guesswork involved in choosing the right mattress, giving you peace of mind that your choice will provide the optimum level of support for the healthiest, most comfortable night's sleep possible.

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NOW ONLY £199
KINGSIZE WAS £349
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• January •

Mo		7	14	21	28
Tu	1	8	15	22	29
We	2	9	16	23	30
Th	3	10	17	24	31
Fr	4	11	18	25	
Sa	5	12	19	26	
Su	6	13	20	27	

• March •

Mo		4	11	18	25
Tu		5	12	19	26
We		6	13	20	27
Th		7	14	21	28
Fr	1	8	15	22	29
Sa	2	9	16	23	30
Su	3	10	17	24	31

• May •

Mo		6	13	20	27
Tu		7	14	21	28
We	1	8	15	22	29
Th	2	9	16	23	30
Fr	3	10	17	24	31
Sa	4	11	18	25	
Su	5	12	19	26	

• July •

Mo	1	8	15	22	29
Tu	2	9	16	23	30
We	3	10	17	24	31
Th	4	11	18	25	
Fr	5	12	19	26	
Sa	6	13	20	27	
Su	7	14	21	28	

• September •

Mo		2	9	16	23 30
Tu		3	10	17	24
We		4	11	18	25
Th		5	12	19	26
Fr		6	13	20	27
Sa		7	14	21	28
Su	1	8	15	22	29

• November •

Mo		4	11	18	25
Tu		5	12	19	26
We		6	13	20	27
Th		7	14	21	28
Fr	1	8	15	22	29
Sa	2	9	16	23	30
Su	3	10	17	24	

NICLE
mna media

13

• February •					
Mo		4	11	18	25
Tu		5	12	19	26
We		6	13	20	27
Th		7	14	21	28
Fr	1	8	15	22	
Sa	2	9	16	23	
Su	3	10	17	24	

• April •					
Mo	1	8	15	22	29
Tu	2	9	16	23	30
We	3	10	17	24	
Th	4	11	18	25	
Fr	5	12	19	26	
Sa	6	13	20	27	
Su	7	14	21	28	

• June •					
Mo		3	10	17	24
Tu		4	11	18	25
We		5	12	19	26
Th		6	13	20	27
Fr		7	14	21	28
Sa	1	8	15	22	29
Su	2	9	16	23	30

• August •					
Mo		5	12	19	26
Tu		6	13	20	27
We		7	14	21	28
Th	1	8	15	22	29
Fr	2	9	16	23	30
Sa	3	10	17	24	31
Su	4	11	18	25	

• October •					
Mo		7	14	21	28
Tu	1	8	15	22	29
We	2	9	16	23	30
Th	3	10	17	24	31
Fr	4	11	18	25	
Sa	5	12	19	26	
Su	6	13	20	27	

• December •						
Mo		2	9	16	23	30
Tu		3	10	17	24	31
We		4	11	18	25	
Th		5	12	19	26	
Fr		6	13	20	27	
Sa		7	14	21	28	
Su	1	8	15	22	29	

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STS Garage Doors

STS Doors are a local family run business and have been established for 24 years. We are the longest running garage door company in the area and pride ourselves on the service and commitment.
Because of our years of experience within the industry, manufacturers provide us the biggest discount available and we pass these offers on to our customers.
We have a large showroom in Cannock with full working models - 16 working doors.

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They offer free, no obligation surveys 3D designs and quotations and, so you will be able to see how your bedroom will look before making the decision to buy. As their designs are aimed at making the best use of the available space, you are sure to find that dealing with the manufacturer saves you time and money.
All jobs are fitted by Direct Bedrooms own, qualified, experienced fitting staff, who are in on the job from the point at which you place your order. You will also have the peace of mind that you are dealing with a fairtrade company.
All this and a 10 year guarantee, what more do you need?
With ample free parking, and opening 6 days a week, Monday to Saturday from 9am til 5pm, why not get down to Bridgtown and take a look. If you prefer log on to their clear and comprehensive website at www.direct-bedrooms.co.uk

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At Mascot Hair Design we take great care in making our clients feel special and aim to give them a great individual service in a relaxed atmosphere.
Our stylists have on going education in cutting and colouring working with Paul Mitchell products and colours. We strive to give our guests the look they require and offer all the advice they need to make sure they can create and maintain their style at home until their next visit.
As you know financially times have been very hard for some so we have introduced discount days and promotions to save some money. We are promoting 1/2 price colour sales throughout the year and offer senior citizens and student discounts.
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Consideration for others is the most common reason for taking out a funeral plan and peace of mind is the most common benefit. With a Golden Charter funeral plan, you choose and funeral you want and pay for it at today's prices.
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Dream Kitchens and Bathrooms in West Midlands priority is to retain customers satisfaction at all times. This allows us to maintain our reputation for excellence. Our dedicated and enthusiastic team will ensure that your new kitchen or bathroom design project will be completed on time and will be hassle free.
Dream Kitchens and Bathrooms also specialise in kitchen and bathroom fittings and accessories. Our showroom is filled with various taps, tiles, flooring, dishwashers, microwaves and cookers to compliment your kitchen or bathroom. Come and visit our showroom to find your Dream Kitchen or Bathroom.
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As a family run business your satisfaction is paramount, our business has been built on word of mouth and reputation, so unlike our competitors, we not only offer a 3 year warranty for all our products, we also offer a 5 year warranty on our installation services as standard.
Premier Garage Doors pride ourselves in making sure that all customers receive the highest level of quality in both the products that we supply and the services that we they provide, completing work which is guaranteed to last is paramount to us.
Premier Garage Doors...giving you quality that lasts.

THE WORX

The Worx is a hair and beauty salon based in Cannock, it offers a wide range of hair and beauty services.
Hair treatments range from fringe cutting to professional hair extensions. Our 3 stylists are well experienced and all have dedicated clientele they use leading hair colours, styling products and hair extensions from the professionals such as Wella, Matrix, Schwartzkopf and Balmain. For a price list or consultation just pop in.
Our beauticians offer a wide range of professional treatments including waxing, pedicure and manicures, massage, tinting and eyelash extensions. The Worxs is now also pleased to announce that we offer the O.P.I. gel on hands and feet. We also offer Fakebake spray tans. Our sunbeds have combi tubes with face and leg boosters.
Salon owner / Beauty Therapist - Stef Daniel
Hairdressers - Louise Collier, Linzi Whitehouse and Lizzie Sheldon our specialist in Wedding Hair, Proms, Hair-ups, Fish Tails, Braiding, Weaving Hair Extensions.
Beauty Therapist - Sophie Bishop and Faye Stanley

FORMAL ELEGANCE

Wedding dress shopping can be a daunting experience, but a Formal Elegance Bridal Boutique, Cannock, it's certainly not scary. You'll always get a friendly welcome, helpful advice and a chance to try on lots of gorgeous bridal gowns and accessories. And not to disappoint your bridesmaid they stock the beautiful Sorella Vita. Former brides rave about the service and quality, nothing will break the bank and Jane and her team are on hand to give their honest advice about all things wedding. Give them a call to book your appointment on 01543 462347

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Established in 1993 by Barry and Hazel Hicks to serve the communities of Stafford, Cannock, Walsall, Wolverhampton and surrounding areas at Broadway and Crown Chem-Dry we pride ourselves on being devoted to Carrying out our business honestly, fairly and with integrity whilst achieving results which are second to none.
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Whether you require assistance with carpet, upholstery, curtain, rug or leather cleaning, stain removal or protection treatments you can rely on us to provide you with the professional service you deserve. We may not be the cheapest but if you want a company which uses the best and safest cleaning solutions and equipment and has thousands of delighted customers then give us a call. For more information on our service, or an estimate, feel free to call us at any time. We look forward to hearing from you very soon!
See our website: www.crownchemdry.co.uk. Tel: 01543 275679

D'core Hair

D'core hair opened on the 4th August 2012
Previously the owner Sarah worked as part of a partnership in Great Wyrley for 9 years but after a mutual decision decided to open her own shop.
We pride ourselves on keeping up to date on all the latest techniques and styles by on going courses with some of the best companies in the business.
Over the years we have tried and tested a lot of different products on the market and are happy that everything we use in the salon is one of the best.

Stockists of.....

Balmain Hair Extensions
Schwarzkoph Colours
Paul Mitchel Products
Caflon Ear Piercing

Sarah (owner)
Sarah has over 20 years experience in the hairdressing business originally starting out working as an apprentice in Wolverhampton training in salon and taking her NVQ to a level 2. Also she has trained with Balmain Hair Extensions, Caflon Ear Piercing Course and Tigi Foundation Course in Make-up.
After moving to a few salons in Wolverhampton she got a job working for leading hairdressers Toni & Guy where she was lucky enough to work in London doing an intense training course at the Knightsbridge Salon.
She worked for Toni & Guy for just over two years.

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SHUGBOROUGH HALL

Shugborough Hall is the largest Bridal Fayre in the Midlands taking place on the 3rd February 2013 at 11 am until 4 pm, last admission is 3.30 pm.
This stately home will host a Bridal Fayre with over 70 exhibitors from DJ's, cakes and flowers, cars, photographers, jewellery, entertainment, bridal wear and much more. There will be a Fashion Show demonstration and also entertainment taking place throughout the day.
Enjoy the day walking around this stately house and grounds, with the exhibitors exhibiting in the main house, marquee and the servants quarters, then take time out with a cup of coffee and hot food from the catering facilities on site - it's not to be missed.
A small admission charge is asked for this event, no charge for under 14's.
To find out more about this Fayre or wish to exhibit please contact 01543 450266 or www.staffordshirebridalfayre.co.uk

BREWERY STREET SHOPPING CENTRE

Brewery Street Shopping Centre has been serving the shoppers of Rugeley for over 20 years, and with lots of shops under one roof it remains popular with local residents.
There is also a number of units available for anyone looking at starting their business, with special concessions for first timers including 3 month starter packages.
The shopping centre has a high success rate with traders opening up bigger premises in the town centre.
The shopping centre benefits from free car parking, disabled access, single level shopping, toilets and baby changing facilities and a cafe.

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Treeway is a family business employing more than 85 people. Our timber mill is situated at a site in Staffordshire (UK). We manufacture various types of wooden fencing panels, matching gates, palisade panels, half log products, square trellis, diamond trellis, posts and allied products. All these products are made from home-grown timber using the latest state of the art technology.
Treeway was founded by Mr Greenaway back in 1977 the business has gone from strength to strength and is still a family run business.

THE PRINCE OF WALES

The Prince of Wales Bridal Fayre will take place on the 30th of January 6 pm until 9 pm. The Bridal Fayre is a yearly event with many local businesses from around the Staffordshire area exhibiting from cakes, flowers, cars, photographers, bridal wear and much more.
You can also enjoy a spectacular Fashion Show starting at 7.30 pm where you will get to see the latest bridal dresses from the 2013 collections of designers such as: Alfred Angelo, Ellis, Christina Ross, Phil Collins and Kay Mayson. Also there will be a chance to see bridesmaid dresses from Alfred Angelo, Veromia and a new menswear collection showcasing new waistcoats and this year's new colours.
Free admission
To find out more about the Fayre or wish to exhibit please contact 01543 450266

PURE HAIR & BEAUTY

Pure Hair & Beauty came to be when Paula Turner (formerly of The Hair Academy) and Michelle Whittaker (formerly of Inspirations 2 Ltd) went into partnership. The pair have been friends for over 25 years after they met as stylists working in the same salon.
A chance conversation led them to offer the very best in hair and beauty. Jade Parsons is their Level 3 qualified beautician. She offers a full range of beauty treatments, from facials to massage and both gel and acrylic nails. Mark Harrison is a senior stylist with over 25 years' experience specialising in gents styling. Scott Higgs is a Level 3 apprentice . Models are always required to help Scott perfect his craft.
Pure Hair & Beauty offers clients two late night openings, Wednesday until 8 pm and Fridays until 7 pm. Paula and Michelle have the same ethos - offer first class service and products at competitive prices. Since joining the two salons together, back in November 2012, the business has gone from strength to strength, with excellent staff and a barrage of loyal customers. 2013 is going to be a great year!
January is traditionally a quiet period in the hair dressing calendar and because everyone is spend out from Christmas, Pure Hair & Beauty will be offering some fabulous special offers. Find us on Facebook to get our best offers.
Happy New Year to all our clients, old and new and thank you for your continuing support.

MIDDLETON & WOOD OF BURNTWOOD

The Independent, Family Run Funeral Directors in Burntwood serving the people of the West Midlands and Staffordshire
We endeavour to give you the care and individual attention only a family run funeral directors and are dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of care throuhout the funeral profession.
Our pricing policy is totally open and competitive; we can and will provide a quotation at any time.
Every funeral is different and we cater for all needs from simple green burials, church services, crematorium services, civil and humanist services, a horse drawn hearse, a motorcycle hearse to assistance with DIY funerals. The funeral trade is part of the 21st Century and our way of Modern Ideas, Traditional Service embraces that thought.
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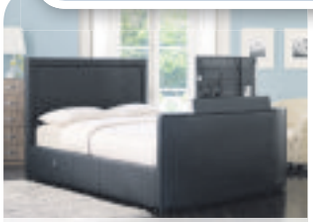

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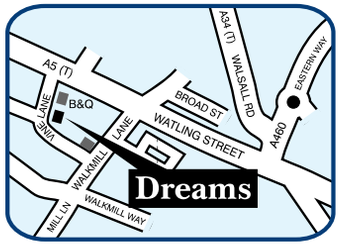

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 5.01.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Richard Hammond

Richard Hammond's Secret Service
BBC1, 6.30pm

Wipeout may be no more, but clearly the Beeb love having Richard Hammond as the face of teatime BBC1. So this week we welcome the Top Gear veteran for a new series which exploits the Candid Camera format. The news about this series broke last May, so "Hamster" fans have had a long wait to see the finished product. It sees him being hired by members of the public to play pranks on their family and friends. A team of actors and comedians dubbed his "secret service" will be on hand to ensure those hilarious japes have us clutching our sides.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Baking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Athletics: Great Edinburgh Cross Country. **2.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Celebrity Mastermind.

6.00 Animal Antics. New series. Funny clips from the animal kingdom, presented by Tim Brooke-Taylor.

6.30 Richard Hammond's Secret Service. New series. Hidden-camera show.

7.10 Britain's Brightest. New series. Clare Balding hosts this search to find Britain's most intelligent individual, in which 24 people complete a series of challenges before one is crowned champion.

8.25 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. New series. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws with Scott Mills.

9.15 Casualty. Four student nurses are thrown in at the deep end on their opening day working in the ED when they are called upon to treat casualties who have been injured in a coach crash.

10.05 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes falls under a hypnotist's spell. (R)

10.35 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.55 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End. (2007) Fantasy adventure sequel, with Johnny Depp.

1.30 Weatherview. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.50 Film: Sylvia Scarlett. (1935) **8.15 Film:** The Little Minister. (1934) **10.00** A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) **11.00** Meet the Ancestors. (R) **11.30** Map Man. (R) **12.00** Indian Food Made Easy. (R) **12.30** Talking Pictures. **1.15 Film:** Of Human Bondage. (1934) **2.35** EastEnders. (R) **4.00** Great British Food Revival. **4.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. **5.30** The Choir: A Year with the Military Wives. (R)

6.30 Flog It! Mark Stacey and Kate Bliss examine collectibles in St Albans, Hertfordshire, and presenter Paul Martin discovers the origin of the city's name during a visit to the cathedral. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring guards some PoWs. (R)

8.00 Stanley Baxter: The Many Faces Of. A profile of the Glaswegian entertainer, whose TV shows drew huge audiences in the 1970s and 80s. With contributions from Michael Grade, Barry Cryer, Bill Oddie and Gregor Fisher.

9.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry is joined by comedians Phill Jupitus, Rich Hall and Jimmy Carr, along with regular panellist Alan Davies on an extended version of the quiz with a difference. (R)

9.45 Film: Cemetery Junction. (2010) Premiere. A young man in 1970s Reading questions what he wants as he starts a new job and is reunited with an old girlfriend. Comedy drama, with Christian Cooke.

11.15 Darts: BDO World Championships. Action from the opening day at the Lakeside Country Club.

12.05 Darts Extra. **2.05** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Handy Manny. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.15** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.30** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Victorious. (R) **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** River Monsters. (R) **11.50** ITV News; Weather. **12.00** Live FA Cup Football. **3.00** Dancing on Ice Live Tour 2012. (R) **4.00** Regional Programme ; Weather. **4.15** ITV News; Weather. **4.30** Live FA Cup Football.

7.15 Splash! New series. Celebrity contest, in which five stars perform a dive in an Olympic-sized pool under the tuition of London 2012 medallist Tom Daley. Vernon Kay and Gabby Logan present.

8.45 Take Me Out. New series. A pilot from Ayrshire, a Liverpool abseiler, a London entrepreneur and a surfer from Bournemouth try to impress 30 single women. Paddy McGuinness presents.

9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. New series. Jeremy Piven talks about his new drama Mr Selfridge, David Tennant discusses his role in Spies of Warsaw, and comedienne Sarah Millican is also in the studio.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 FA Cup Football Highlights. Matt Smith presents action from the third-round matches, which included Barrow or Macclesfield Town v Cardiff City, Southampton v Chelsea and Peterborough United v Norwich City.

12.30 The Store. **2.30** Pushing Daisies. (R) **3.15** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** International Volleyball. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.10 Channel 4 News.

6.40 4thought.tv. Members of the public who have made New Year's resolutions and stuck to them talk about their commitment to changing their lives.

6.45 Is Our Weather Getting Worse? Investigating the UK's most severe weather events of the past decade, with the use of archive footage, expert insight and computer graphics. (R)

7.40 Film: The Day After Tomorrow. (2004) A climatologist races across America to rescue his son as freak weather conditions cause devastation around the world. Disaster thriller, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Dennis Quaid.

10.00 Film: Inglourious Basterds. (2009) Jewish-American soldiers on a Nazi-killing spree in occupied France aid a resistance plot to assassinate Hitler. Tarantino's wartime adventure, with Brad Pitt and Christoph Waltz.

1.00 Film: Hard Eight. (1996) **2.40** Hollyoaks. **4.45** Smallville. (R) **5.25** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Inside Hollywood. **11.15** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.15** The Gadget Show. (R) **1.15 Film:** Shattered Silence. (2012) **3.00 Film:** The Dam Busters. (1954) **5.30 Film:** Random Hearts. (1999) Drama, with Harrison Ford.

7.50 5 News Weekend.

7.55 NCIS. Gibbs discovers a link between the murder of a petty officer and the break-up of his team, leading him and new director Leon Vance to unravel the mystery. (R)

8.50 NCIS. A lieutenant apparently commits suicide by jumping from an aircraft carrier and Ziva and McGee are dispatched to inform the widow – but arrive to find that she has been murdered. (R)

9.45 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.

10.45 50 Shocking Facts About Diet and Exercise. Countdown of weight-loss methods, with scientists, industry experts and exponents explaining the pros and cons of fad diets, "healthy" foods and extreme exercise regimens.

11.45 Forensic Files. A female killer leaves police few clues to work with. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.25** Great Artists. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide To. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Merlin **7.45** Doctor Who **8.35** Top Gear **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.05 Film:** The Prestige (2006)

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger **8.00** A History of Art in Three Colours **9.00** Borgen **11.00** The Richest Songs in the World

ITV2

3.35 Film: The Mighty Ducks (1992) **5.40 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **7.50 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.45** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.35** Fake Reaction **11.20 Film:** Couples Retreat (2009)

ITV3

3.00 Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.05 Film:** Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007)

ITV4

3.15 Film: The Way West (1967) **5.45 Film:** The Big Country (1958) **9.00 Film:** Hard Target (1993) Action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. **11.00 Film:** GoodFellas (1990)

E4

2.30 Film: Charlotte's Web (2006) **4.30** How I Met Your Mother **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** Rules of Engagement **9.00 Film:** Role Models (2008) **11.00** The 50 Funniest Moments of 2012

Film4

3.10 Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) **4.55** Hairspray (2007) **7.15** Zoolander (2001) **9.00** Knowing (2009) An astrophysicist decodes a page of numbers revealing the dates of a series of disasters and tries to prevent them happening. Mystery thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Rose Byrne. **11.20** The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning (2006)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 6.01.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Jeremy Piven

Mr Selfridge
ITV1, 9pm

Created by multi-award-winning writer Andrew Davies (he penned famous adaptations of Pride and Prejudice, Bleak House and Little Dorrit) and set in 1909, this new, fact-based drama stars Jeremy Piven as Harry Selfridge, a visionary American entrepreneur who, during a trip to London, decided that the British shopping experience needed sprucing up. So he invested £400,000 (a whopping amount of cash back then) in creating the Oxford Street department store that now carries his name. But, as we see here, getting his vision off the ground wasn't always easy.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **11.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.30** BBC News; Weather. **12.40** Countryfile. (R) **1.35** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.35 Film:** Old Dogs. (2009) **4.00** Britain's Favourite Supermarket Foods. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Africa.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Adam Henson presents a selection of past stories featuring horses and dogs, animals that are integral to rural life, and invites some of the most charming breeds on to his farm. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team travel to Stowe House in Buckinghamshire, where items include a 16th-century print and evidence of one of the earliest Beatles concerts. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

9.00 Ripper Street. A teenage orphan is suspected of beating a toy-maker to death, bringing Reid and Drake face to face with a child gang and its brutal master. Joseph Gilgun (Misfits) guest stars.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Film: Bruce Almighty. (2003) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey and Morgan Freeman.

12.00 The Sky at Night. **12.20** The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.40** Weatherview. **1.45** Sign Zone: Miniature Britain. (R) **2.45** Holby City. (R) **3.45** MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) **4.15** You've Been Scammed. (R) **4.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: They Flew Alone. (1942) **7.40 Film:** Yellow Canary. (1943) **9.15** A to Z of TV Gardening. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** EastEnders. (R) **12.55** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. **4.45** Coast. (R) **5.30** Flog It! The team visits Darlington, Co Durham. (R)

6.30 Blackpool: Big Night Out. Documentary looking at the Lancashire seaside resort through the eyes of acts who have performed there, and recalling its heyday as a town at the heart of British entertainment. (R)

7.30 Fawlty Towers. Manuel's pet rat escapes just as a health inspector is about to visit, sending Basil on a mad dash to find it before disaster ensues. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Neil Armstrong – First Man on the Moon. Close family and friends tell the story of the commander of the historic Apollo 11 lunar mission in July 1969 and reveal how he coped with the subsequent fame. (R)

9.00 Tankies: Tank Heroes of WWII.

10.00 Speed Dreams: The Fastest Place on Earth.

11.00 Darts: BDO World Championships. Colin Murray presents action from the second day at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, featuring first-round matches.

11.50 Darts Extra. The BDO World Championships. Extended highlights of the first-round matches on the second day at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, played over the best of five sets.

1.50 BBC News.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Handy Manny. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.15** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.30** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Rated A for Awesome. **8.15** Rated A for Awesome. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats Super Show. **9.25** FA Cup Football Highlights. (R) **10.40** Dinner Date. (R) **11.45** May the Best House Win. (R) **12.45** Rosemary & Thyme. (R) **1.45** ITV News; Weather. **1.55 Film:** Columbo: Short Fuse. (1972) **3.30** The FA Cup Draw. **3.45** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.45** Regional Programme ; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Dancing on Ice. New series. Jason Gardiner returns on a new-look judging panel as the first group of skaters battles to stay in the competition. Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley present. The results are at 8.30pm.

7.45 All Star Family Fortunes. New series. Soap stars Mikey North and Matthew Wolfenden take part.

8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. New series. The two least popular celebrities have to skate again.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. New series. US retail magnate Harry Gordon Selfridge arrives in London in 1908 planning to open the world's finest department store.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 FA Cup Football Highlights. Swansea City v Arsenal and Mansfield Town v Liverpool.

11.45 Royal Babies. (R)

12.40 The Store. **2.40** Pushing Daisies. (R) **3.25** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The Treacle People. (R) **6.30 Film:** Arctic Tale. (2007) **7.55** Will & Grace. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30 Film:** Clueless. (1995) **4.25** Deal or No Deal. **5.25** Time Team.

6.25 Channel 4 News.

6.55 4thought.tv. Members of the public who have made New Year's resolutions and stuck to them talk about their commitment to changing their lives.

7.00 Come Dine with Me. Dinner party challenge from Wrexham. Taking part are financial adviser Joey Perez, keep-fit enthusiast Jacki De Sanders, sci-fi fan Tom Evans and hotel inspector Lisa Groom.

8.00 The Hotel. Manager Mark tries to appeal to upmarket guests and seeks the help of a former AA chief hotel inspector – who books in undercover and is unimpressed by what he finds.

9.00 Film: The Iron Lady. (2011) Premiere. The elderly Margaret Thatcher looks back on her controversial political career as she faces up to the death of her husband. Biopic, with Meryl Streep and Jim Broadbent.

11.05 Film: The Wedding Date. (2005) Romantic comedy, with Debra Messing and Jack Davenport.

12.40 Film: Venus. (2006) **2.15** Jennifer Saunders: Laughing at the 90s. (R) **4.05** Smallville. (R) **4.45** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.40** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.40** Olive the Ostrich. (R) **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Animal Antics. (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** City of Friends. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Mio Mao. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.00** Inside Hollywood. (R) **11.05** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.05** Once Upon a Time. (R) **1.00 Film:** Are We There Yet? (2005) **2.50 Film:** White Fang. (1991) **4.50 Film:** Stand By Me. (1986)

6.20 5 News Weekend.

6.25 Film: X2. (2003) Superhero adventure sequel, starring Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Ian McKellen, Alan Cumming and Halle Berry.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.

10.00 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2012. Countdown of the year's biggest showbiz stories. (R)

12.50 SuperCasino. **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide To. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV **9.00 Film:** Alice in Wonderland (2010) **10.40** Family Guy

BBC Four

7.00 Britain on Film: A Woman's Place **7.30** Britain on Film: Brits at Play **8.00** Timeshift: How to Write a Mills & Boon **9.00** Doris Day: Virgin Territory **10.00 Film:** I Am Love (2009) **11.55** Top of the Pops: The Story of 1978

ITV2

3.35 Take Me Out – The Gossip **4.20 Film:** King Kong (2005) **8.00** You've Been Framed! **9.00** The Magaluf Weekender **10.00 Film:** I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (2007)

ITV3

3.55 Film: Watership Down (1978) **5.50** Murder, She Wrote **6.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00 Film:** Rain Man (1988) Drama, starring Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise. **11.45** Cracker

ITV4

3.45 Film: The Sea Shall Not Have Them (1955) **5.45 Film:** The Last Sunset (1961) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** The Gauntlet (1977) **11.15 Film:** Village of the Damned (1995)

E4

3.10 Made in Chelsea End of Season Party **4.15 Film:** Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **6.00** Rules of Engagement **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Cheaper By the Dozen 2 (2005) **10.00** The 50 Funniest Moments of 2012

Film4

2.50 The Golden Child (1986) **4.45** The Golden Compass (2007) **6.55** Brewster's Millions (1985) **9.00** Predators (2010) Sci-fi thriller sequel, with Adrien Brody. **11.10** Thank You for Smoking (2005)

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Film Choices

MONDAY

The Perfect Teacher, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A spoiled, selfish teenager becomes infatuated with her teacher. She befriends his daughter as a way of worming her way into the family and sets about manipulating every aspect of his life, including driving away his girlfriend. As her mind games continue, her obsession leads her to murder. Thriller, starring Megan Park and David Charvet. (2010)

TUESDAY

Mickey Blue Eyes, ITV1, 10.35pm

A strait-laced Englishman falls for a New York mobster's daughter, who wants to escape her family's criminal connections. However, try as he may, he realises there is virtually no way to avoid being drawn into the family's illegal shenanigans. Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant, Jeanne Tripplehorn, James Caan and Burt Young. (1999)

The Rebound, BBC1, 11.25pm

A New York mother starts a new life in suburbia after leaving her unfaithful husband. She befriends a younger man who is still getting over being abandoned by his wife. Romance soon blossoms, but neither is sure if they are just trying to recover from their recent failed relationships. Romantic comedy, with Catherine Zeta-Jones and Justin Bartha. (2009)

The Village, Friday, BBC1, 11.25pm

WEDNESDAY

When a Stranger Calls, Channel 5, 11.30pm

A teenager babysitting for a family living in a remote lakeside house is terrorised by mysterious threatening phone calls. She soon discovers the caller is ringing from inside the house and realises her and the children's lives are in danger. Horror, with Camilla Belle, Katie Cassidy and Tessa Thompson. (2006)

THURSDAY

Vivacious Lady, BBC2, 8.50am

A professor falls in love with a brash nightclub singer while on a trip to New York, and impulsively marries her. However, he is afraid his conservative family will not approve of his new wife, so tries to keep the relationship a secret from them. Romantic comedy, with Ginger Rogers and James Stewart. (1938)

FRIDAY

The Village, BBC1, 11.25pm

The peaceful rustic existence of villagers living a seemingly idyllic life in a remote 19th-century settlement comes under threat when an age-old truce with the creatures of the forest is broken by a headstrong young man. M Night Shyamalan's horror thriller, starring Joaquin Phoenix and Bryce Dallas Howard. (2004)

Pick of the Week

Dynamic duo's series is out of this world

If you've ever wondered how the galaxy began, then allow us to enlighten you.

Our whole universe was in a hot dense state, then nearly 14 billion years ago expansion started. Wait...

Okay, we admit it. Those are the lyrics to The Big Bang Theory, but if you want to know more about life, the universe and everything, then Dara O Briain and Brian Cox have just the show for you.

Since 2011, their week-long strand Stargazing Live has become an annual fixture in January, a time when the other terrestrial channels seem obsessed with shows about diets and alleged celebrities co-habiting in a camera-strewn pre-fab.

They kick things off their exploration of the night skies with the search for evidence of life on Mars, and ask viewers for help to explore an uncharted area of the red planet's surface.

Plus, Liz Bonnin reports live from NASA mission control to find out the latest findings of the Curiosity Rover, and Mark Thompson offers tips on how to observe the moons of Jupiter.

The Mock the Week veteran and the much imitated professor might be an unlikely double act, but their mix of jargon and banter has proved to be a great way to enjoy a week of programming.

For decades of course The Sky At Night was the daddy of all astronomy shows, a BBC1 staple which was usually screened when most of us were tucked up in bed.

Hosted by the much-missed Patrick Moore, TSAN made history as the longest-running TV show hosted by the same presenter.

From 1957, the acclaimed Knight inspired millions, including Queen guitarist Brian May, and Messrs O Briain and Cox.

Alas, astronomy series on other channels is rarely even an issue these days.

Those with a long memory may recall Heavens Above, a short-lived kids' ITV show from the 1980s in which Dr Heather Couper proved that reaching for the stars (while most of us were in the gutter) was just as much fun as playing asteroids on their Atari game system.

After the plug was pulled on that show, commercial TV bosses backed away from the genre about as fast as Felix Baumgartner's sub-space freefall last year.

So thank heavens Brian made the universe sexy again with his assorted BBC shows, Wonders of the Universe and Wonders of the Solar System.

We have no idea what his pending series Wonders of Life will be like, but we imagine his take on natural history could give genre legend David Attenborough a run for his money.

Brian's star, if you'll excuse the pun, has been on the rise for years now, and it helps that he's such a good all rounder, whether fronting impressive strands such as this, or Radio 4's Infinite Monkey Cage, with Robin Ince.

It's little wonder Danny Boyle chose him as technical adviser for his sci-fi epic Sunshine a few years ago.

Coming back to Earth with a bump, here Brian and Dara shed more light on the universe, and if that's not enough astronomical entertainment for you, stay tuned for spin-off show Back to Earth, which is broadcast immediately afterwards.

Brian Cox and Dara O Briain host Stargazing Live, Tuesday, BBC2, 8pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Miranda

BBC1, 9pm

The image Miranda projects is that of an overgrown child – but the latest episode sees her trying to prove she can behave as an adult. It's a task that is easier said than done... Miranda thinks that everyone will be convinced of her new, grown-up approach to life if she can successfully take care of a toddler and host a dinner party for eight people. Unfortunately, the youngster inside her can't resist a soft play area, so instead of encouraging the toddler to climb on the obstacles, she ends up stuck inside a kids' tunnel. And as for the dinner party... well, you can probably imagine the chaos that ensues there...

TUESDAY

The Undateables

Channel 4, 9pm

Being a small fish in the huge pool that is the dating game can be stressful enough at the best of times (men are from Mars and all that), but the individuals featured in this series have to contend with extra pressures – they're disabled. When the show first aired last year, many of us dared only look through squinted eyes at a programme that sounded as though it would poke fun at those less fortunate. What we were faced with, though, was a heartwarming series that highlighted that, everybody has the right to love and be loved. In this instalment, we meet 26-year-old Michael, whose autism means he struggles to hold down a conversation, let alone a date.

Death in Paradise

BBC1, 9pm

We're rather pleased to see this crime drama is back for a new run – not least because its depictions of hot weather should warm up our wintery nights. Ben Miller returns as policeman Richard Poole who, along with his team, must discover who has lethally wedged a machete into the back of former sugar plantation owner Roger Seymour. There is no shortage in suspects – Seymour doesn't seem to have been that popular a guy – but picking the right one proves almost impossible, especially when the island's festival of love begins to distract Richard... Sara Martins also stars, alongside guests James Cosmo, Tom Ward and Stephanie Beacham.

WEDNESDAY

Africa

BBC1, 9pm

You've got to hand it to the BBC – their natural history unit is absolutely second to none. That's thanks largely to David Attenborough's influence, both as presenter and former director of programmes. Now, even at the age of 86, he's still the best in his field, and he proves it with this magnificent series. In this second episode, he and the rest of the Africa team visit the rocky outcrops of the Serengeti, in Tanzania, to bring us some remarkable and striking images. They include a daring lizard risking its life to eat the flies from a lion's face, and footage of one of the most unusual birds extant – the four-foot-tall shoebill – demonstrating its nesting habits.

THURSDAY

Silent Witness

BBC1, 9pm

Another year, another series of Silent Witness. Stepping into Tom Ward's shoes is David Caves as Jack Hodgson, one of the youngest people in the UK in his field. He faces a baptism of fire in his first case alongside Nikki and Leo which involves the death of wealthy, ageing confectionary company owner John Briggs. DI Gold thinks he died of natural causes, but Nikki and Jack aren't so sure. In-fighting among Briggs' family, staff and potential business investors makes finding out whodunit all the more difficult – until the appearance of a new corpse helps to shed some light on the murky matter. Series regulars Emilia Fox and William Gaminara also star, alongside guests Sharon Small, Tim Pigott-Smith and Louis Emerick.

The Undateables, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

FRIDAY

16 Kids and Counting

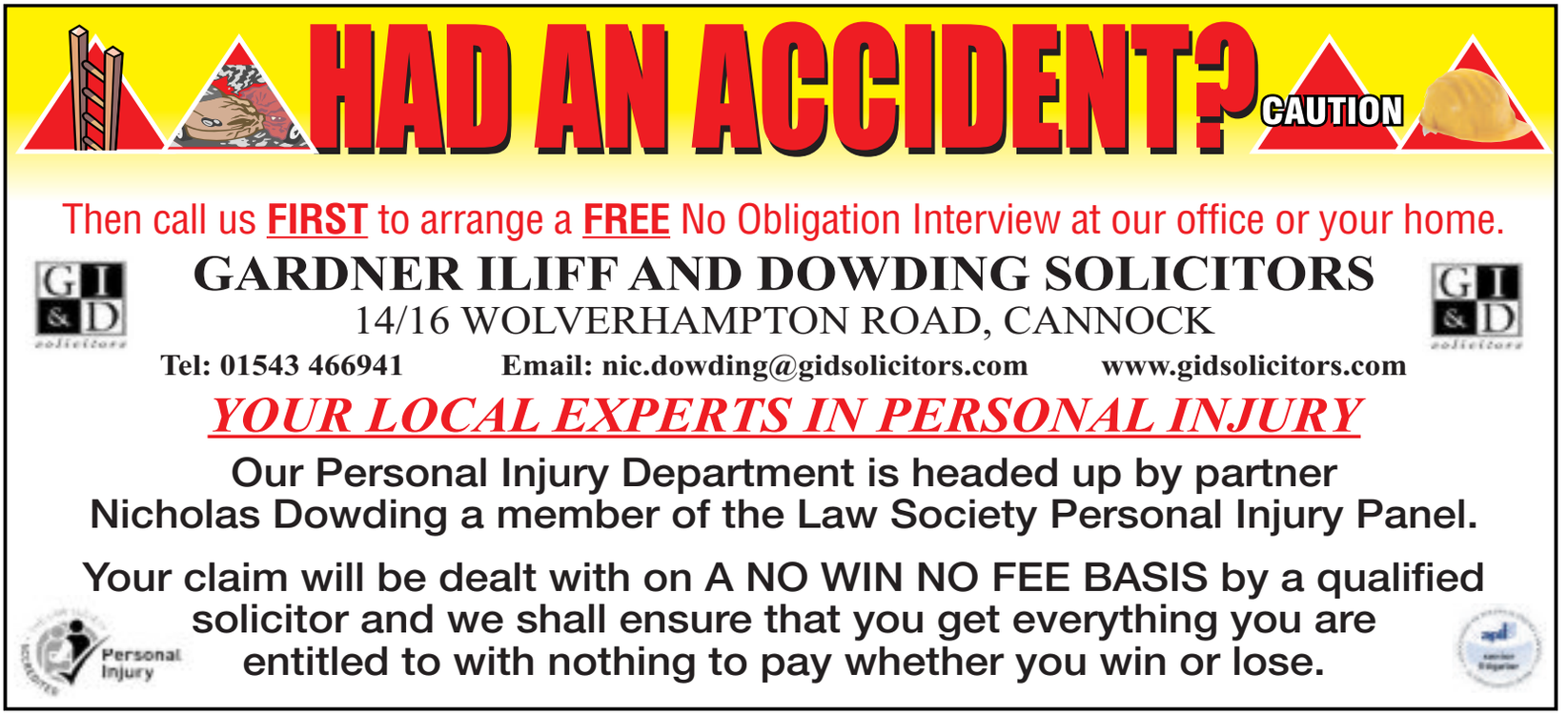
Channel 4, 9pm

Sue Radford is the matriarch of Britain's biggest family living under one roof, and having 15 of them already, she is now awaiting number 16. Eldest daughter Sophie, 18, could help out, but her first baby is due a month earlier. Given their ever-increasing numbers, a road trip to France could be seen as less of a family outing and more of an invasion, but that's on the cards as Sophie and boyfriend Joe come to terms with becoming first-time parents, while Sue and Noel get used to the idea of their new status as grandparents. Here cameras offer us a glimpse of the laughter, tears and general chaos at the Radfords.

The Graham Norton Show

BBC1, 10.35pm

Graham Norton is like a pair of old slippers. That's not to say he's got a faint whiff of something rather unpleasant and is well-worn; more that he's a comfortable fit and you just wouldn't be without him. Graham's audience knows exactly what it's going to get with him – clean, excitable fun that won't have telly bosses falling over themselves to reach for the 'censor' button. The fella simply has it. Whatever 'it' may be, there aren't many talk-show hosts like him. The man's got the gift of the gab, we'll give him that. And tonight, he's rubbing shoulders with the big guns, inviting only the coolest director in the world, Quentin Tarantino, on the show for a chinwag.

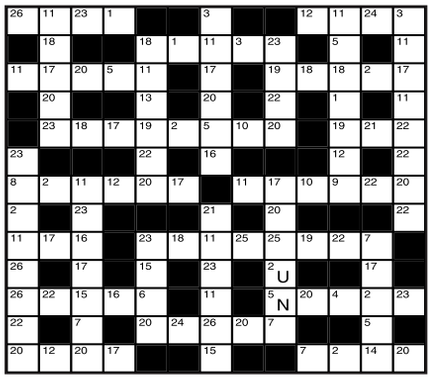


What's On!

Brain Gym No.201

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2 U	15
3	16
4	17
5 N	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 J	2 K	3 F	4 Q	5 N	6 B	7 X	8 V	9 T	10 O	11 G	12 I	13 M
14 W	15 P	16 E	17 C	18 D	19 R	20 H	21 L	22 A	23 Y	24 S	25 U	26 Z

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. What the unpopular candidate will do? (5,2,4)
9. She features in all the Australian newspapers (3)
10. Share out a pint - poor arrangement! (9)
11. Decoys break the rules (5)
13. Everybody in the demonstration is superficial (7)
14. It's possibly nice to see (6)
16. A prop on the beach (6)
18. Guard gives a warning (4-3)
19. Total way to review the evidence (3,2)
20. It keeps stocking up (9)
21. Make mistakes out of terror (3)
22. Their skills are sinister (4-7)

Down

2. Catch a number up (3)
3. Comes closer in linear sketches (5)
4. Key member of the staff (6)
5. They're thrown from horses in rodeos (7)
6. Some space remaining for a liquor store (5,4)
7. Those put on it may expect firm offers in writing (7,4)
8. A world opens out for this Central Asian animal (4-7)
12. Turned up in France (9)
15. Nearest point in a cupboard (7)
17. Good grounds for holding sports (6)
19. There's a scrap when a communist is told to be quiet (5)
21. Are made a feature of (3)

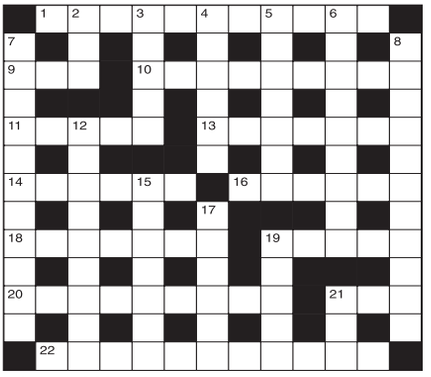
Quick Clues:

Across

1. Face (11)
9. Away (3)
10. Height (9)
11. Spiteful (5)
13. Steady worker (7)
14. Harvester (6)
16. In arrears (6)
18. Sterilised (7)
19. Charm (5)
20. Reckon (9)
21. Behind (3)
22. Frangibility (11)

Down

2. Dolt (3)
3. Very poor (5)
4. Not liable (6)
5. In fashion (1,2,4)
6. Innocent (9)
7. Agreement (11)
8. Disbelief (11)
12. Wayfarer (9)
15. Confide (7)
17. Bad writing (6)
19. Lustre (5)
21. Idiot (3)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Orbs; 3 Smuggler; 9 Eagerly; 10 Forge; 11 Compare notes; 13 Slight; 15 Stay up; 17 Pull together; 20 Hails; 21 Clapper; 22 Cheering; 23 Tomb. Down: 1 Overcast; 2 Begum; 4 Mayhem; 5 Gift of the gab; 6 Larceny; 7 Roes; 8 Breathalyser; 12 Spare rib; 14 Inutile; 16 Toucan; 18 Hippo; 19 Chic. QUICK - Across: 1 Sell; 3 Maturity; 9 Affront; 10 Fatal; 11 Disapproving; 13 Recent; 15 Sudden; 17 Cream-cracker; 20 Ennui; 21 Aileron; 22 Intended; 23 Once. Down: 1 Slanders; 2 Lifts; 4 Attire; 5 Unfavourable; 6 Intoned; 7 Yell; 8 Compensation; 12 Entrance; 14 Coronet; 16 Scrape; 18 Koran; 19 Yeti.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

			4	8			9	
2	8			6	1			3
5								8
	1	9		4		7		
			2	7	6		5	
7						6	8	
9		3				8		5
	6		3	5			1	7
	5				2			

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	5	8	9	1	3	2	7	4
2	1	3	8	4	7	9	5	6
9	7	4	2	5	6	8	3	1
3	9	7	5	2	4	6	1	8
4	6	1	3	8	9	5	2	7
5	8	2	6	7	1	3	4	9
8	4	6	7	3	5	1	9	2
7	3	9	1	6	2	4	8	5
1	2	5	4	9	8	7	6	3

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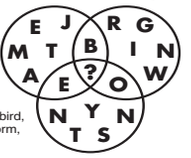
Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is L. Ladybird, Greenfly, Silkworm, all insects.

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Penkridge
Haling Dene Centre, 7.00 pm
Ring Jan: 07939 001558

Heath Hayes
Heath Hayes Primary School
Wimblebury Road
7.00 pm
Ring Lisa: 01543 279260

Huntington
Huntington Comm. Centre
Stafford Road, 7.00 pm
Ring Anne: 01543 505791

Rugeley
Rugeley Rose Theatre
Taylors Lane, Rugeley,
5.30pm & 7.30pm
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Ring Esther: 07527 175277

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NEW OPENING - 8th JANUARY
Rugeley
Cedar Tree Hotel
Main Road, Brereton
7.30 pm
Ring Emma: 07969 865624

Cannock
Longford House, Cannock
7.00 pm
Ring Lucy: 07772 208805

Cannock
St Lukes Church Centre
Church Street 10.00 am
Ring Anne: 01543 505791

Heath Hayes
Heath Hayes Primary
School, Wimblebury Road, 7.00 pm
Ring Lisa: 01543 27926

WEDNESDAY
NEW OPENING
Cheslyn Hay
Salem Church Hall
High Street, Cheslyn Hay
9.30am
Ring Karen: 01543 509459

Bridgtown
Bethal Methodist Church,
Union Street,
5.00pm & 7.00 pm
Ring Simon: 01543 495240

THURSDAY
Cannock
The Chase Room,
Avon Leisure Centre,
Avon Road.
6.30 pm
Ring Jan: 07939 001558

Cheslyn Hay
Village Hall, Pinfold Lane,
Cheslyn Hay.
7.00 pm
Ring Karen 01543 509459

Rugeley
St. Augustine'e Church
Station Road
7.00 pm
Ring Esther: 07527 175277

Heath Hayes
St Josephs RC School, Hilltop,
Heath Hayes
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The Consultants would like to wish our members, Old and New, all the very best for the New Year!

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Jan Penkridge & Cannock

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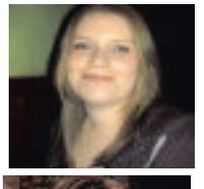

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Price Guide £205,000

Raven Close, Hednesford

This three bedroom semi detached home with a generous garden plot. The property includes entrance lobby, lounge, open plan dining kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, family bathroom and garage. Outside is parking to the front and a good size garden to the rear.

Price Guide £125,000

Littleworth Road, Cannock

An individually built three bedroom detached family home. The accommodation briefly comprises of guest cloakroom, lounge dining, breakfast kitchen, utility, three double bedrooms, refitted bathroom, single garage currently converted to office space and off road parking.

Price Guide £183,000

Rayden Court, Cannock

A two bedroom ground floor apartment with no upward chain. Set back off a private gated entrance. The accommodation briefly comprises of communal entrance, entrance porch, entrance hall, open plan lounge kitchen diner, two bedrooms, bathroom and allocated parking.

P.O.A

Station Road, Hednesford

Three bed mid terraced house situated on Station Road, Hednesford. Lounge, Dining room, Re-fitted kitchen, Utility, Cellar, Three bedrooms, Bathroom, Garden at rear and parking. The property also benefits from double glazing and central heating where specified.

Price Guide £137,000

Copperkins Road

This three bed semi detached property situated on Copperkins Road, Hednesford. The property comprises in brief: lounge, kitchen diner, three bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking and rear garden. This property is offered with no upward chain.

Price Guide £125,000

Newlands Lane

Detached bungalow with rear garden, garage, front lawn and an inner courtyard. Reception hall, sitting room with a conservatory off, dining room opening into the garden room and kitchen, laundry room and cloakroom. Three good size bedrooms and a refitted bathroom.

Price Guide £329,950

Chetwynd Park, Hednesford

A spacious family home with a woodland view to the front. Entrance porch, reception hall, guest cloakroom, sitting room, dining room, family room, conservatory and dining kitchen. Five bedrooms, two with en suite facilities and family bathroom.

Price Guide £319,950

Sweetbriar Way, Heath Hayes

A four bedroom detached residence situated on the edge of a popular residential development within the catchment area for excellent local schools. Spacious living accommodation & has enviable views to the front aspect. PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED.

Price Guide £279,950

Mulberry House, Penkridge

An Individual detached home offering spacious accommodation. The proeprty comprises reception hall, sitting room, dining room, dining kitchen and guest cloakroom,four bedrooms, en suite facilities to master and a family bathroom. Outside is a drive to the front,and garage and garden to the rear.

Price Guide £295,000

Stafford Road

An individual and well presented detached home situated up a long drive, with entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, sun room, cloakroom, four bedrooms, en suite and family bathroom. Outside is a double garage and gardens.

Price Guide 229,000

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£375 pcm

Elm Road, Norton Canes

Traditional three bed end terraced house. Lounge and Dining room, family bathroom, front & rear gardens. Gas central heating & double glazing, off road parking. Children & pets welcome.

£525 pcm

Middleway, Rawnsley

A three bedroom semi detached house, reception room, family bathroom, fitted kitchen, off road parking and newly decorated throughout. Available now.

£575 pcm

Leamington Close, Cannock

A three bedroom semi detached property benefiting central heating, double glazing, garage and off road parking. Sorry No Smokers or DSS. Small Pets will be cosidered.

£550 pcm

Turner Close, Heath Hayes

Two bedroom mid terrace house with hall, kitchen, lounge with gas fire, bathroom with shower and parking. Childrens and pets are welcome.

£495 pcm

Heathbank Drive, Huntington

A two bed tradional detached house, with double glazing, gas central heating, sorry no pets, smokers or DSS

£475 pcm

Bond Way, Hednesford

One bedroom apartment to rent with bathroom, lounge, kitchen and allocated parking. No smokers

£350 pcm

Victoria Terrace, Bridgetown

A one bedroom first floor apartment with kitchen, one bedroom, bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing and secure allocated parking space. Sorry no dss, no pets or no smokers.

£395 pcm

Silver Birch Road, Norton Canes

A three bedroom mid terraced house situated close to all local amenities. With lounge, spacious kitchen dining, bathroom with shower and rear garden. DSS considered.

£550 pcm

Broadhurst Green, Hednesford

A three/four bedroom property, lounge, kitchen/diner and fitted bathroom. Large rear garden and driveway to front. No DSS, No smokers and small pets welcome.

£795 pcm

Pheasant Way, Heath Hayes

A two bedroom modern 1st Floor apartment. Double glazing, lounge, fitted kitchen with oven and hob. Parking, Sorry no DSS or Smokers.

£495 pcm

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St George Drive, Hednesford

A spacious family home which offers sitting room, dining room, good size conservatory, breakfast kitchen, music/family room, utility store. Four bedrooms, the master having re-fitted en suite facilities and a family bathroom. Outside are gardens to front, rear drive and garage.

Offers Over £200,000

Tranter Crescent, Heath Hayes

A beautifully presented detached family home situated on a corner plot in a cul de sac location. Viewing is essential to appreciate. A landscaped rear garden is this superbly presented detached home. The property is being sold with the benefit of No Chain.

Price Guide £209,950

Charlock Grove, Heath Hayes

A superbly presented four bedroom detached house. Entrance hall, lounge with dining area off, fitted kitchen with utility area and cloakroom off. Master bedroom with a re-fitted en suite shower & family bathroom. Driveway providing access to the integral garage. No Upwards Chain

Price Guide £209,950

Skylark Close, Cannock

A modern three bedroom detached house benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing. With lounge, dining room, kitchen, guest wc, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property is positioned on a good sized plot and a viewing is recommended.

Price Guide £160,000

Langtree Close, Heath Hayes

A three bedroom link detached house, gas central heating & double glazing. Modern re-fitted kitchen & bathroom. Enclosed rear garden & blocked paved driveway with single garage. Situated close to the popular village Heath Hayes

Price Guide £150,000

Sheraton Close, Hednesford

A well presented family home with no upwards chain & having the benefit of a conservatory and games room. Accommodation comprises of lounge/dining room, a well equipped kitchen. Three bedrooms and a family bathroom. There is an integral garage & a delightful rear garden.

Price Guide £154,950

Peel Drive, Cannock

A spacious three bedroom semi detached home sitting on a corner plot and comprised in brief of Lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory and bathroom. Good size rear garden drive way and garage.

Price Guide £149,950

Raven Close, Hednesford

A three bedroom semi-detached house on Raven Close. The property is situated on a good sized corner plot. The accommodation briefly comprises lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen and three bedrooms. The property offers No Upward Chain.

Price Guide £139,950

Lawnswood, Cannock

The accommodation comprises, lounge, breakfast kitchen, guest W/C, three Bedrooms and family bathroom. Outside is a driveway to the front and garden with decking to the rear. There is gas central heating system and double glazing.

Price Guide: £132,500

Remington Drive, Cannock

A well maintained two bedroom bungalow for over 60's having gas central heating & double glazing, lounge & kitchen front & rear gardens conveniently located for Cannock town centre and being sold with the benefit of No Upward Chain.

Offers Over £115,000

Goldthorne Avenue, Cannock

This three bedroom detached bungalow on Goldthorne Avenue, Cannock. It benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. The accommodation briefly comprises of spacious lounge/dining room, kitchen, three good sized bedrooms and bathroom.

Price Guide £194,950

Hednesford Road, Norton Canes

A two bed detached bungalow situated on Hednesford Road, Norton Canes. The accommodation briefly comprises two berooms, lounge, kitchen, bathroom and a garage. The property also benefits from double glazing, central heating, rear garden and driveway.

Price Guide £169,950

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CANNOCK'S Nº1 CHOICE FOR LETTINGS

HEDNESFORD
LINDEN VIEW

- Unfurnished
- Town House
- Porch,
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 1 Bedroom
- Shower Room
- Heating
- Garage

£425 pcm Sorry No DSS

CANNOCK
BEECH TREE COURT

- Unfurnished
- 2nd Floor Flat
- lounge
- fitted kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- C/H & D/G
- Parking

£450 pcm Sorry No DSS

HEATH HAYES
SAM BARBER COURT

- Unfurnished
- Ground floor flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Heating
- Parking

£435 pcm Sorry No DSS

HEDNESFORD
GEORGE STREET

- Unfurnished
- Detached House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- C/H & D/G
- Parking

£625 pcm SORRY NO DSS

WALSALL WOOD
BROOK LANE

- Unfurnished
- Detached Dorma Bungalow
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Study/Extra Bedroom
- C/H & D/G
- Parking

£780 pcm SORRY NO DSS

CALF HEATH
STRAIGHT MILE

- Unfurnished
- Townhouse
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- C/H & D/G
- Parking
- Large Cellar

£550 pcm SORRY NO DSS

CHADSMOOR
CANNOCK ROAD

- Unfurnished
- First Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- C/H & D/G
- Allocated Parking

£375 pcm SORRY NO DSS

WISHING ALL OUR
LANDLORDS
AND
TENANTS
PAST AND
PRESENT A
HAPPY NEW YEAR

HEDNESFORD
HERONDALE

- Unfurnished
- Ground Floor Flat
- Hall, Lounge,
- Fitted Kitchen
- 1 Bedroom
- Bathroom
- C/H & D/G
- Parking

£350 pcm Sorry No DSS

HEDNESFORD
ST STEPHENS COURT

- Unfurnished
- Second floor flat
- Two bedrooms
- Heating
- Double glazed
- Allocated parking

£395 pcm Sorry No DSS

CANNOCK
LONGFORD ROAD

- Unfurnished
- Semi Detached House
- Hall, Lounge
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- C/H & D/G
- Parking

£625 pcm SORRY NO DSS

HEDNESFORD
CHANCERY DRIVE

- Unfurnished
- Semi Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- C/H & D/G
- Parking

£550 pcm SORRY NO DSS

CANNOCK
LEAMINGTON CLOSE

- Unfurnished
- Semi Detached House
- Hall, Lounge
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- C/H & D/G
- Parking

£525 pcm SORRY NO DSS

CANNOCK
LANGDALE GREEN

- Unfurnished
- Terrace
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- C/H & D/G
- Parking

£525 pcm SORRY NO DSS

HEDNESFORD
BROMLEY CLOSE

- Unfurnished
- Town House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- C/H & D/G
- Parking
- Garden

£450 pcm SORRY NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
KIELDER CLOSE

- Unfurnished
- Detached House
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- C/H & D/G
- Garage

£525 pcm SORRY NO DSS

CANNOCK
DEVON ROAD

- Unfurnished
- First floor flat
- Hall Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- C/H & D/G
- Re-decorated

£425 pcm SORRY NO DSS

CANNOCK
DEVON ROAD

- Unfurnished
- First Floor Flat
- 1 Bedroom
- Bathroom
- C/H & D/G
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- Close to Train Station

£385 pcm SORRY NO DSS

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GREAT WYRLEY, NORTON LANE,

- Porch, Hallway
- Lounge, Sitting Room
- Dining room, Kitchen
- Utility Area
- Downstairs Bathroom
- 4 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- F&R Gdns, Garage
- GCH, Upvc D.G.
- No Chain

£189,995

CANNOCK, HASELMERE GROVE,

- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Hallway, Lounge
- Kitchen, Sun Room
- One Bedroom
- Shower Room
- G.C.H. Upvc D.Glazed
- Front & Rear Gardens
- NO CHAIN

£89,995

HEDNESFORD, STRINGERS HILL

- Semi Detached House
- Hallway, Inner Hall, Guests w.c.
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom, G.C.H.
- Double Glazed Windows
- Driveway, Rear Garden
- Open Views to the Rear

£124,950

HEDNESFORD, CHARLEMONT CLOSE,

- Mid Town House
- Hallway, Lounge
- Dining Area, Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- G.C.H. Upvc D.Glazed
- Gardens, Garage
- Allocated Parking

£119,995

HEATH HAYES, BRAMPTON DRIVE,

- VENDOR WILLING TO PURCHASE FREEHOLD UPON COMPLETION
- Semi Detached House
- Hallway
- Lounge, Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Driveway, Garage

£109,000

HUNTINGTON, LUPIN DRIVE,

- Ground Floor Apartment
- Communal Hallway
- Hallway
- Open Plan Lounge/Diner
- 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Upvc D.Glazed, G.C.H.
- Allocated Parking Spaces
- No Chain

60% Share £69,995

HEDNESFORD, LEAFDOWN CLOSE,

- 5 Bed Detached House
- Porch,Kitchen,Utility
- Guests W.C.,Breakfast Room
- Conservatory,Dining Room
- Lounge,Study,2 En-Suites
- Family Bathroom,G.C.H.
- Double Garage,Upvc D.G.
- Gardens

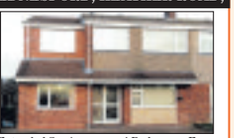
£279,995

GREAT WYRLEY, JUBILEE CLOSE,

- Semi Detached House
- Hallway, Lounge
- Dining Room, Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Utility, Garage Space
- G.C.H. Upvc D.Glazed
- Driveway, Rear Garden

£149,950

HEDNESFORD, HEATHER ROAD,



- Extended Semi Detached
- Through Hallway, Lounge
- Sitting Room, Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs Shower Room
- 4 Bedrooms, En-suite
- G.C.H. Upvc D.Glazed
- Rear Garden, Driveway
- No Chain

£124,950

HEDNESFORD, LONGACRES,

- First Floor Flat
- Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- GCH, Upvc D.Glazed
- Garage, Driveway

£68,000

HEDNESFORD, GREENWOOD PARK,

- Semi Detached House
- Hallway, Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Upvc D.Glazed
- Gardens, Garage
- No Chain

£117,500

HEDNESFORD, HEATH STREET

- Semi Detached House
- Hallway, Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Guests w.c.
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- G.C.H. Part Upvc D.Glazed
- Rear Gardens
- Driveway, No Chain

£127,500

HEATH HAYES, BRISBANE WAY,

- Executive detached house
- Through hallway, guest WC
- Study, dining room
- Lounge, breakfast kitchen
- 5 bedrooms, en suite
- Bathroom, GCH, uPVC DG
- Double garage, gardens
- Alarmed, open views

£315,000 NO CHAIN

GREAT WYRLEY, WALSALL ROAD,

- Detached Cottage
- Porch, Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Veranda, w.c.
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- G.C.H., Front Garden
- Detached Double Garage
- No Chain

£149,995

CANNOCK, ADAM COURT,

- 2nd Floor Apartment
- Communal Hallway
- Hallway, Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- G.C.H. Upvc D.G
- Gardens, Parking

£92,995

HATHERTON, LAVENDER COTTAGE

- 3 Bed Cottage
- Hallway, Guests w.c.
- Open Plan Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- G.C.H. Upvc D.G
- Driveway, Gardens
- Open views to rear

£189,995

WIMBLEBURY, ALBANY DRIVE,

- 4 Bed Detached House
- Through Hallway
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Conservatory, Kitchen
- Utility, Guest W.C.
- En-Suite, Bathroom
- G.C.H. Upvc D.Glazed, Driveway
- Garage, NO CHAIN

£212,500

CANNOCK, PYE GREEN ROAD,

- Semi Detached House
- Porch, Hallway
- Kitchen, Lounge
- 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Upvc D.Glazed
- Front & Rear Gardens
- No Chain

£109,995

CHRONICLE MOTORING Powered by motors.co.uk

Richard's car restoration work won't break bank

Spray start – Richard uses snow foam

Inside job – Richard works on the dash

IF you're lucky enough to have a really nice car then it's normal to want to keep it in tip-top condition – but would you spend £15,000 on having it extreme cleaned?

This is the price tag that some owners of classic cars in London are splashing out on having their dream machines specialist cleaned and treated but you don't have break the bank to get a similar service for your flash motor.

Richard Felton of Midlands-based on-the-road specialist cleaning and detailing firm Auto Car Detailing has many clients who regularly treat their vehicles to four hours of attention on their driveway or at work for £120 a time.

His clients range from run-of-the-mill motorists to serious collectors of classic cars including Ferraris and Bentleys. Based in Shrewsbury, where he has secure premises to house longer jobs, he launched his firm eight years ago. Richard explained how there is nothing more disheartening than seeing your cherished motor's paintwork being covered in unsightly swirl marks and holograms.

Richard is able to decontaminate paintwork, remove scratches, bird stains, watermarks, swirl marks, machine buffer marks, holograms and cobwebbing, restoring paintwork back to its original colour if it has faded.

Spraying

He said: "I started my own business from scratch. I trained in vehicle body repair and spraying then moved into valeting and from then got into the detailing side, which is spending an extreme amount of time on a vehicle."

Offering to show our motoring editor just what he could do, it was time for her to find a willing volunteer vehicle. And, although my Peugeot 307 may not be a classic, it's very special to me. After four hours my cherished possession looked brand spanking new – both inside and out – with the work including a double wax that will last for six months.

First Richard covered my motor with snow foam which helps break down grease and pressure washed it to remove layers of grit and dirt. After that it was hand-washed using a two-bucket method with ph neutral shampoo and soap before it was rinsed and then buffed with a sheepskin mit.

The wheels were then cleaned with a non-acidic cleaner. Then, a panel at a time was gone over with a clay bar to stop any contaminants. It was then sprayed and rinsed again to remove any bird lime or tar.

The paintwork was then towel pat dried with a plush microfibre towel before being cleaned again using a foam hand polish. Next my car was treated to two layers of car wax, which were buffed. Then Richard moved to the interior of the car, treated the edges round the doors, to protect the paintwork against contaminants and valeted it.

● For further information or to book an appointment with Richard call him on 07739 12011 or visit www.autocardetailing.co.uk

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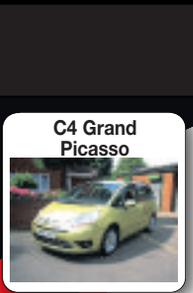
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The Tourer was named best MPV at Practical Caravan's Towcar Awards

Tourer tows the line for quality

By Sharon Walters

First things first, I don't need a seven seater car and I don't need to be able to tow a decent weight . . . but if I did the Vauxhall Zafira Tourer would be up there among contenders.

This third-generation of the model hit our roads earlier this year and has continued its earlier success and built on it. Unlike some MPVs, it is full-size with plenty of space for seven, and also unlike other MPVs, it can actually tow a decent weight. In fact it was named this year's Best MPV at Practical Caravan magazines's Towcar Awards 2012.

The Practical Caravan awards, backed by What Car? magazine and The Camping and Caravanning Club, are based on a vigorous and thorough towcar assessment. Each car is tested by a panel of eight judges for its towing ability, buying and owning costs, drive quality when not towing and practicality.

"The Zafira Tourer really comes into its own when towing," said awards judge Nigel Donnelly, Haymarket Outdoor Leisure Group's editor-in-chief – digital. "At the legal limit and beyond the Zafira Tourer is a relaxing car to tow with. With plenty of power and torque, the 2.0-litre engine pulled car and caravan from 30-60mph in 14.1 seconds. Braking showed the shortest stopping distance in this class. The Zafira Tourer offers strong performance, good stability and space for seven."

"We're delighted Zafira Tourer has won the Best MPV title at the Towcar Awards 2012," said Peter Hope, Vauxhall's marketing director. "The Towcar of the Year awards are an industry standard and by far the most prestigious event in the caravanning calendar."

And while I didn't test its towing capabilities the 2.0 litre version I drove certainly felt it had the capability to hitch up the 'van' for a summer holiday and leave you feeling pretty safe behind the wheel with the kids piled in the back. But I did test some of Vauxhall's flexibility claims by trying out a number of the options Flex7 seating system. There are several including 'Lounge Seating' on key models. When you want seven up the two seats at the very back come up out of the floor and the middle bench seat is now a set of three separate seats which are also each capable of folding and splitting into any number of combinations. In addition the two outside seats slide backwards and inwards against the middle seat which folds to form two arm rests and gives plenty of space.

Reduced

Only downside to seven up is the reduced boot space. But if you want to turn it into a load lugger put all the seats down to reveal 1,860 litres of space – more than enough for a trip to collect flat-pack from Ikea or clear the shed out and head for the tip.

Staying on the inside materials are of a much better quality than the old model and the design means everyone gets a good view of outside from the light and airy cabin. This is made even better if you opt for a panoramic sunroof and the high-top windscreen

There's a choice of two petrol engines and three diesel. My car was the ecoflex with start/stop technology and I really could appreciate the difference in fuel consumption when chugging around town doing odd jobs and stopping off for shopping. Sitting at traffic lights just when they change at one of my regular routes can take some minutes and when the engine switches off it can make all the difference on your monthly fuel bill.

Drivewise it was comfortable and coped well with the pot-holes on the B roads on my way into work and it smoothly made its way along the M54.

Standard features across the four trim level range include: ESP, six airbags, air conditioning, CD/MP3 player and cruise control – not bad with prices starting at £21,010.

A good view outside is guaranteed due to the Zafira's high-top windscreen

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Pictures for illustration only.

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60 New Astra 1.4 Exclusiv 5dr hatch, 17" alloys, Cruise control, 10300 miles, Tech Grey £9499
10 New Astra 1.6 Elite 5dr hatch, Leather, Alloys, Bluetooth, 42900 miles, Silver £9499
60 New Astra 1.4 Exclusiv 5dr hatch, Cruise control, A/C, 10300 miles, Carbon Flash £9999
11 New Astra 1.7 CDTi Excite 5dr hatch, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, 20400 m, Flame Red £10999
61 New Astra 1.4 SRi 5dr hatch, Parking sensors, alloys, A/C, 5200 miles, White £10999
61 New Astra 1.6 SRi Sports Tourer, Alloys, A/C, 13100 miles, Silver Lake £10999
61 New Astra 1.6 SRi 5dr hatch, 17" Alloys, Cruise control, 7600 miles, Carbon Flash £11999
11 New Astra 1.7 CDTi SRi Sports Tourer, Alloys, Cruise control, 28000 m, Tech grey £11999
60 New Astra 2.0 CDTi SE estate, Sat Nav, Bluetooth, 20300 miles, Ex Demo Tech Grey £13499
11 New Astra 2.0 CDTi SRi Sports Tourer, 19" alloys, parking snsrs, 7700 m, Tech Grey £13499
61 New Astra 2.0 CDTi SRi 5dr hatch, 18" alloys, A/C, 7500 miles, Olympic White £13999
12 New Astra 2.0 CDTi Elite 5dr hatch, Leather, Alloys, heated seats, 9900 m, Black £14999
11 New Astra 2.0 CDTi SRi 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth + more, ex demo, 12300 m, silver £15999
61 New Astra 2.0 CDTi GTC, Bluetooth, Sat Nav, 19" alloys, 9000 miles, Black £17999
61 New Astra 2.0 CDTi GTC, Bluetooth, Sat Nav, 20" alloys, 11000 miles, Black £21999

CORSA
08 Corsa 1.2 Breeze 3dr, A/C, CD player, elec windows, 43400 miles, Flame Red £4999
07 Corsa 1.4 SXi 3dr hatch, Body Kit, 16" alloys, 26800 miles, Flame Red £5499
57 Corsa 1.3 CDTi Club 5dr, A/C, Rear parking sensors, 36500 miles, Star Silver £5999
09 Corsa 1.0 Life 3dr, CD player, Central locking, 21600 miles, Air Blue £5999
59 Corsa 1.0 Active 3dr hatch, A/C, CD player, Elec mirrors, 20000 miles, Power Red £6499
10 Corsa 1.0 Energy 3dr hatch, Alloys, A/C, 16700 miles, Flame Red £6999
10 Corsa 1.2 Design 5dr, Alloys, A/C, half leather, 31300 miles, Flame Red £6999
11 Corsa 1.2 SXi 5dr hatch, 16" alloys, MP3 socket, 7500 miles, Star Silver £7399
60 Corsa 1.0 Energy 3dr, 15" alloys, A/C, elec windows 19300 miles, Black Sapphire £7499
60 Corsa 1.0 Energy 3dr, Alloys, A/C, 17600 miles, Glacier White £7499
10 Corsa 1.2 Energy 5dr hatch, A/C, 15" alloys, 21600 miles, Oriental Blue £7999
09 Corsa 1.3 CDTi Design 5dr hatch, 16" alloys, A/C, 8500 miles, Silver Lightning £8399
60 Corsa 1.3 CDTi SE 5dr hatch, heated seats, Alloys, A/C, 23500 miles, Black £8999
12 Corsa 1.2 SXi 5dr hatch, 16" alloys, A/C, MP3 connection, 9400 miles, Silver Lake £9499
61 Corsa 1.2 SXi 5dr, 16" alloys, MP3 connection, 2800 miles, Silver Lake £9499
11 Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr AUTO, Auto lights/wipers, heated seats, 14600 miles, Oriental Blue £9999
11 Corsa 1.2 Ltd Edition 3dr, Body kit, 18" alloys, 24100, Olympic White £9999
12 Corsa 1.4 SXi 5dr, Rear sensors, 16" alloys, A/C, 10400 miles, Technical Grey £9999

MERIVA
59 Meriva 1.4 Club 5dr hatchback, A/C, CD player, 19600 miles, Lancelot £5999
59 Meriva 1.6 Design 5dr hatch, double sunroof, Cruise control, 15500 miles, Ultra Blue £6999
59 Meriva 1.6 Design 5dr hatch, double sunroof, Cruise control, 8200 miles, Lancelot £6999
10 Meriva 1.4 Active 5dr hatch, A/C, Elec windows, 15900 miles, Ex Demo, Black £6999
60 New Meriva 1.4 Turbo Exclusiv 5dr hatch, 17" alloys, A/C, 16500 miles, Silver Lake £8999
60 New Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv 5dr hatch, 17" alloys, A/C, 15700 miles, Silver Lake £9499
11 New Meriva 1.4 Excite 5dr, Bluetooth, A/C, cruise control, 7600 miles, White £9999
60 New Meriva 1.3 CDTi Exclusiv, A/C, Cruise control, 5600 miles, Pepperdust £10499
11 New Meriva 1.7 CDTi AUTO Exclusiv, A/C, Parking sensors, 13000 miles, White £11499

ZAFIRA
59 Zafira 1.6 Life 5dr hatch, Tow bar, A/C, Elec windows, 18800 miles, Panacotta £8499
59 Zafira 1.6 Design 5dr hatch, Alloys, Half leather seats, 14700 miles, Star Silver £8999
59 Zafira 1.8 Active+ 5dr hatch, Climate control, 16" alloys, 20300 miles, Star Silver £8999
61 Zafira 1.7 CDTi Exclusiv 5dr hatch, A/C, Elec windows, 3300 miles, Star Silver £10999
61 Zafira 1.7 CDTi Elite 5dr, 16" alloys, Leather, parking sensors, 4700 miles, Silver £13499

INSIGNIA
09 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv 5dr, Sat Nav, Cruise control, 47900 miles, Technical Grey £9499
09 Insignia 2.0 SRi 5dr hatch, Alloys, Cruise Control, 27400 miles, Technical Grey £9999
11 Insignia 1.8 Exclusiv 5dr hatch, Cruise control, A/C, 17400 miles, Sovereign Silver £9999
59 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv estate, parking sensors, S/nav, 39000 miles, Metro Blue £10499
60 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv 5dr, Bluetooth, Cruise control, 29100 miles, Tech Grey £10499
10 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv 5dr, 18" alloys, Cruise control, 30800 miles, White £10999
10 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv 5dr, A/C, Cruise control, 19500 miles, Sovereign Silver £11499
10 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Elite 5dr, Leather, Sat Nav, Parking sensors, 25200 miles, Black £12499
61 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 4dr saloon, 18" alloys, cruise control, 17300 miles, Black £12499
61 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi AUTO estate, Sat Nav, 18" alloys, 23900 m, Sovereign Silver £13499
59 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Elite AUTO, Leather, Sat Nav, Bluetooth, 10000 miles, Waterworld £13999
10 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Elite 5dr hatch, Leather, S/nav, Bluetooth, 13400 m,Waterworld £13999
61 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 5dr, Bluetooth, Alloys, Cruise control, 7800 miles, Silver Lake £14999
12 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi Sports Tourer, Sat Nav, Bluetooth, 15800 m Sovereign Silver £15999
12 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi Sports Tourer, Alloys, parking sensors, 9400 miles, White £15999
12 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi VX-Line, Sat Nav, Body kit, 20" alloys, 12700 miles, Power Red £16499
62 Insignia 2.0 SRi 160ps 5dr hatch, Sat Nav, Alloys, 3800 miles, Power Red £16999
11 Insignia 2.8 V6 Elite 5dr, 19" alloys, S/nav, leather, 14000 m, XDemo, Silver Lake £19999

CONVERTIBLES
07 Astra 1.8 Twintop Design, Alloys, A/C, Leather, 43300 miles, Black Sapphire £5999
08 Astra 1.8 Twintop Design, leather, 18" alloys, 33900 miles, Flame Red £7499

VXR
08 Corsa 1.6 VXR 3dr, 17" alloys, Cruise control, 21800 miles, Silver Lightning £9499
59 Corsa 1.6 VXR 3dr, 18" alloys, Cruise control, A/C, 29800 miles, Silver Lightning £10499
09 Astra 2.0 VXR 3dr, 19" alloys, Keyless entry, 35900 miles, Flame Red £10999
12 Corsa 1.6 VXR 3dr, 18" alloys, AFL headlights, 9200 miles, Arden Blue £14999
10 Insignia 2.8 V6 4dr saloon, 20" Alloys, Sat Nav, 20600 miles, Arden Blue £18499
09 VXR8 6.2 V8 4dr saloon, Alloys, body graphics, 15700 miles, Power Red £18999
10 Insignia 2.8 V6 estate, Sat Nav, Bluetooth, 20" alloys, 16600 miles, Black £19999

COMMERCIALS
57 VW Caddy 2.0 SDi 65ps, CD player, Sliding door, Bulkhead, 14300 miles, Black ..... £5999+VAT
56 Astra 1.7 Diesel Sportive Silver roof bars A/con ..... £5999+VAT
08 Astravan 1.7 CDTi Sportive, Tow bar, A/C, 50000 miles, Black Sapphire ..... £6999+VAT
60 Combo 1.7 CDTi, A/C, CD player, 13400 miles, Glacier White ..... £7499+VAT
09 Vivaro 2.0 Diesel 2900 LWB red Roof rack ,rear parking sensors 20120 miles ..... £8499+VAT
12 New Combo L1H1 1.3 CDTi, Rear sensors, A/C, Side door, 5800 miles, White ..... £9999+VAT

OTHER MAKES
60 Suzuki Alto 1.0 SZ3 5dr, A/C, Elec windows, CD player, 10800 miles, Grey £5999
59 VW Golf GT TDi 140ps 5dr, 17" alloys, A/C, 38700 miles, White £11999

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2008 58 X-TYPE 2.0 S **DIESEL** 4-dr ALLOYS EW CL FSH EXECUTIVE MOTORING £7,999
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2001 51 MICRA 1.0 S 3-dr. SUNROOF LOOK ONLY 45,000 miles £1,999
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2006 56 NOTE 1.6 SVE 5-dr. Alloys, EW, AC, low miles £4,499
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2009 09 207 SPORT 1.6HDi 110 3-dr Alloys EW CL AC Just 18,000 miles **DIESEL** £6,999
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2010 59 CLIO 1.2 TCE I-MUSIC 5-dr Alloys EW CL AC Stunning Condition £5,999
2004 54 CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE 3-dr. Sunroof, alloys, EW, CL £2,499
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2010 59 FABIA 2 1.4 16V 5-dr, **ESTATE,** FSH, Alloys, AC, Just 16,000 miles £6,499
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2009 09 ASTRA 1.8 VVTi **TWIN TOP** SPORT 2-dr **CONVERTIBLE** Alloys, AC, Just 11,000 miles £7,799
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2004 54 CORSA 1.0 LIFE 5-dr EW CL Just 23,000 miles One Family Owner from New !! £3,499
2009 59 CORSA 1.0 ACTIVE 3-dr, AC, Alloys, 20,000 miles £6,499
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2008 57 VECTRA 1.8 Sri 5-dr Aircon Alloys EW CL Just 49,000 Miles £5,499
2008 08 ZAFIRA 1.8 EXCLUSIVE 5-dr ALLOYS EW CL 7 SEATS £5,999
2005 55 ZAFIRA DESIGN 5-dr, 7 Seats, Alloys, EW, CL £4,699
2003 53 ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN 5-dr 7 Seats Alloys Aircon EW CL £2,999
VOLKSWAGEN
2005 55 BEETLE 2.0 8v 3-dr. Alloys, AC EW CL, Just 37,000 miles £4,999
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2002 52 320i SE 4-dr **AUTOMATIC** Leather Aircon Alloys Just 63,000 Miles £3,699
2007 57 C4 GRAND PICASSO 2.0 SX 5-dr **AUTOMATIC.** 7 seats, EW, AC, alloys, 33000 Miles £5,999
2009 09 CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO 2.0 HDi VTR+ **AUTOMATIC.** 7 seats, EW, AC, alloys, FSH £7,999
2010 10 FORD FIESTA 1.4 EDGE 5-dr **AUTOMATIC.** AC, PDC, EW, CL, cheap car!! £6,499
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2006 06 MINI ONE 1.6 2-dr **CONVERTIBLE.** PDC, PAS, alloys £6,499
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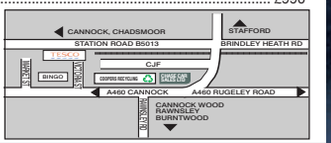

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Versatility – and extra space puts the Splash out in front

WHO knows where car manufacturers come up with the names of their new models, but you can't help thinking Suzuki wanted British motorists to Splash out on one of their newly-updated models.

It's officially a mini-MPV, but it's a still a bit bigger than some of the other popular hatchbacks in the small car experts' line-up, and those of its rivals.

It goes to show that a few extra inches can make a big difference.

The revamped Splash doesn't take up any more room on the road, neither is it any more difficult to park, than most in the hatchback class. But it's taller, which means an elevated driving position for better visibility, better than average room for five passengers and a bit more luggage space. The latest Splash has new front and rear bumper styling, a new bonnet and grille design, and inside there's a new design of seat fabric and graphite colour scheme.

I drove the top-of-the-range SZ4 version powered by the lively 1.2 litre, 94PS petrol engine originally developed for the Splash's popular stablemate, the Swift.

Bargain

The list price is £12,000 while the entry level model is £9,325 – although at the time of writing Suzuki's 'VAT free' offer was putting them all in the bargain basement. Big selling points are versatility and room, particularly when it comes to the most frequently used seats – the two in the front. The seating position is relatively high, with deep windows, which helps visibility and manoeuvring in tight spots.

The three rear seats split and fold flat to create an impressive 573 litres of cargo space, plus a water-proof compartment under the load floor. I didn't get to drive the one litre, 68PS engine but the 1.2 (familiar from the Swift) is smooth and lively, taking you from a standstill to 60mph in 12 seconds yet capable of averaging a little over 55mpg. CO2 emissions are 118g/km, so at current rates that will cost you just £30 a year in VED (road tax).

The Splash is light and easy to drive, and its height has an added advantage. It allowed the engineers a little more room for suspension components compared to smaller cars, resulting in a particularly smooth ride by class standards.

All Splash come with four airbags, CD tuner with MP3 player and steering wheel-mounted audio controls; a leather-trimmed steering wheel; remote central locking; front electric windows with driver's auto-down; electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors; height-adjustable front seats; tilt adjustable steering wheel and an information display.

The SZ3 and 4 versions also get air conditioning, while top of the range models have an Electronic Stability Programme); curtain shield airbags, 15in alloys, front foglamps, keyless entry and start with privacy glass for the rear side windows and tailgate.

By John Griffiths

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2003 53 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 DYNAMIC
5-door. Metallic Blue, air con, ABS, c/locking, e/windows, CD player, only 55,000 miles

2003 53 RENAULT ESPACE 2.0 DCi 7 Seater. Metallic Black, PAS, air con, c/locking, e/windows etc

CAR OF THE WEEK

2005 CITROEN C4 COUPE 1.4. Black, c/locking, e/windows, PAS..... £2995

SALOONS & HATCHBACKS

2009 59 RENAULT TWINGO 1.1 EXTREME. Metallic Blue, one owner, full service history, only 15,000 miles..... £4995
2006 55 VW BEETLE 1.6 LUNA. Silver, alloy wheels, c/locking, PAS, e/windows..... £5495
2006 06 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 3-door. Silver, PAS, c/locking, e/windows..... £3495
2005 05 CITROEN C4 1.4 COUPE. Black, c/locking, e/windows, PAS..... £2995
2004 54 MERCEDES C200 CDi CLASSIC SE Metallic Anthracite, Grey cloth interior, 1 private owner, full service history, alloys..... £4995
2003 53 CITROEN SAXO 1.4 FURIO, only 40,000 miles, service history, alloys, PAS, e/windows, etc..... £2295
2003 53 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 CLUB Automatic. Only 40,000 miles, full service history, e/windows, PAS, c/locking, 12 months MOT and 12 months Tax, only..... £2295
2003 53 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 DYNAMIC 5-door. Metallic Blue, air con, ABS, c/locking, e/windows, CD player, only 55,000 miles..... £2495
2003 53 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER Touring. Silver, only 41,000 miles, alloys, air con, e/windows, c/locking..... £2995
2003 53 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi 3-door. Black, alloys, c/locking, PAS, e/windows..... £2895
2001 51 MERCEDES SLK 230 COMPRESSOR. Metallic Blue, Blue/Black leather, alloys, air con, electric roof, etc..... £4995

AUTOMATICS

2009 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1.8 SX Auto Estate. Only 23,000 miles, PAS, c/locking, e/windows, air con, service history..... £4395
2007 07 CHEVROLET TACUMA 2.0 CDX Auto. Metallic Blue, low mileage..... £2695
2003 53 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 CLUB Automatic. Only 40,000 miles, full service history, e/windows, PAS, c/locking, 12 months MOT and 12 months Tax, only..... £2295

4X4 PEOPLE CARRIERS

2007 07 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 CLUB Metallic Blue, e/windows, c/locking, 7 seats..... £4295
2003 53 RENAULT ESPACE 2.0 DCi 7 Seater. Metallic Black, PAS, air con, c/locking, e/windows etc..... £3695

MOTORHOME

1994 PILOTE GALAXY 2.4 MX Turbo Diesel. A Class Motorhome, 4 berth, shower, toilet, fridge, cooker, heater, canopy, bike rack, reversing camera, TV aerial etc, service history, excellent example of this top quality motorhome..... £12995

UNDER £2000

2003 03 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 CLUB Auto..... £1695
2002 03 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 8V. Blue, alloys..... £1595
2002 52 RENAULT SCENIC 1.9 DCi Diesel. Silver..... £1295
2002 02 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 CLUB. Silver..... £1495
2001 X VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CLUB. Silver, 2 owners, outstanding for year..... £1395
1999 T ROVER 618i SALOON 1 owner from new, Metallic Red, new MOT, full service history..... £995

2006 55 VW BEETLE 1.6 LUNA.
Silver, alloy wheels, c/locking, PAS, e/windows

2003 53 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi
3-door. Black, alloys, c/locking, PAS, e/windows

2006 06 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0
3-door. Silver, PAS, c/locking, e/windows

2009 59 RENAULT TWINGO 1.1 EXTREME
Metallic Blue, one owner, full service history, only 15,000 miles

2003 53 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 CLUB AUTOMATIC.
Only 40,000 miles, full service history, e/windows, PAS, c/locking, 12 months MOT and 12 months Tax, only

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Bond fever shakes up the price of Aston DB5

THE usual huge crowd flocked to Brightwells to see over 100 classic cars and motorcycles come under the hammer.

Undeterred by difficult travelling conditions and widespread flooding in the run-up to the sale, bidding was keen for many lots and by the end of the day over 70 vehicles had found new homes in a sale which grossed almost £900,000.

Given all the hype surrounding the 50th anniversary of the James Bond films and the recent 'Skyfall' premiere, it was perhaps no surprise that a silver Aston Martin DB5 topped the results table.

A 1964 model that had been partially stripped out and race prepared by the late Peter Wheeler of TVR fame, the Aston soared way beyond its estimate beforegoing to an American bidder for £184,800.

Also hotly contested was a beautifully presented 1937 Alvis Speed 25 SB Charlesworth Saloon that was finally secured by a German collector for £71,600 (some £15,000 above forecast). However, perhaps the most surprising result of all was the price paid for a rather crudely made 1932 Riley Nine Special that had been languishing in a Cheshire barn for 30 years. With half-a-dozen phone bidders chasing it, the Riley eventually trebled its estimate before being hammered down to another German bidder for £17,000.

Best of British – the 1964 Aston Martin DB5 which made top price at the sale

More predictable was the £25,750 paid by a UK buyer for a left-hand drive 1970 Porsche 911T 2.2 which confirms just how desirable these early 911s have become recently, even in basic T spec as here.

Triumph's TR range of sportscars always have a following and the £13,400 raised by a 1967 TR4A and the £10,500 for a 1972 TR6 were bang on the money for good usable examples. Land Rovers also have many fans and a superbly restored 1966 Series 2A fetched a richly deserved £10,300.

"Overall we were delighted with the results of the sale," said Brightwells' car consultant, James Dennison. "Foreign bidders were much in evidence and good cars are continuing to attract very healthy prices despite the sometimes gloomy news in other areas of the economy. The outlook for next year looks positive and we expect the market for classic cars will remain buoyant."

The next sale is on March 6, 2013

Citroen now painting a fresh picture with its new Picasso PV

A new front bumper and bold Citroen chevrons make the new C3 Picasso stand out

CITROEN'S C3 Picasso supermini MPV has been refreshed before the new year, bringing additional options and improved looks as well as maintaining its impressive value.

A revised front bumper with the bold Citroen chevrons plus LED daytime running lights on VTR+ and Exclusive models bring added personality, while two new body colours are also introduced – Ink Blue and Pearlescent White.

Citroen's new eMyWay satellite navigation system is now available as an option list, with extra functionality over the previous MyWay system, but at no extra cost. eMyWay can also be specified with a reversing camera and rear parking sensors for easier manoeuvres.

Standard

An electro-chrome rear-view mirror is now included in C3 Picasso's Automatic Pack option at no extra charge and new 15in wheel covers are standard on VT versions.

Citroen has also uprated the power output of the HDi 110 engine on the C3 Picasso Exclusive, renaming it HDi 115. The slight increase in power has no effect on the model's fuel economy or CO2 emissions.

The revised C3 Picasso is on sale now and starts at £12,995, rising to £17,475.

WINDMILL GARAGE

06 Reg MERCEDES C220 CDi COUPE AUTO Met Silver, Black/ Grey Leather, P/S, C/L, E/W, A/C, Alloys, only £6999

59 Reg FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC Auto. Met Red, PS, CL, EW, AC, alloys £6999

03 Reg MINI COOPER In Yellow, many extras £3499

57 HONDA CIVIC 1.8 SE Auto. Met Grey, PS, CL, EW, AC, alloys, only £7599

56 Reg TOYOTA AVENSIS 1.8 COLOUR COLLECTION 5-dr, Silver £4499

08 Reg RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXPRESSION Met Blue, P/S, C/L, E/W, A/C, alloys £4699

DIESELS

09 Reg MONDEO 1.8 TDCi EDGE Met Grey, PS, CL, EW, AC £7999
06 Reg MERCEDES C220 CDi COUPE AUTO Met Silver, Black/Grey Leather, P/S, C/L, E/W, A/C, Alloys, only .. £6999
56 Reg FOCUS TDCi ZETEC 5-dr. Black, alloys, AC, Great Value £4599
56 Reg RENAULT MEGANE 1.9 DCi DYNAMIQUE Met Black, PS, CL, EW, AC, alloys £2999
X Reg CITROEN SAXO 1.5D Met Gold, 5-dr, PS, CL, EW, ... £1199

AUTOMATIC

59 Reg FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC Auto. Met Red, PS, CL, EW, AC, alloys £6999
57 Reg HONDA CIVIC 1.8 SE Auto. Met Grey, PS, CL, EW, AC, alloys, ... £7199
06 Reg MERCEDES C220 CDi COUPE AUTO Met Silver, Black/Grey Leather, P/S, C/L, E/W, A/C, Alloys, only .. £6999
T Reg RENAULT CLIO 1.6 Auto. In Red £1499
P Reg HONDA CIVIC 1.6 Auto. PS, CL, EW, CD £999

ESTATES

54 Reg SKODA FABIA 1.4 Estate. Metallic Grey, P/S, C/L, E/W, alloys £3999
03 Reg PEUGEOT 307 1.6 ESTATE In Silver £3499

MINI

03 Reg MINI COOPER In Yellow, many extras £3499
51 Reg MINI COOPER In Black, White roof, Chilli pack, panoramic roof, P/S, C/L, E/W, alloys £3199

MPV - 4x4

04 Reg VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 2.0 DTi. Metallic Silver, PAS, C/L, E/W £2699

SALOONS & HATCHBACKS

10 Reg PEUGEOT 107 1.0 URBAN. In Red, PAS, C/L, E/W, CD £5999
09 Reg FOCUS ZETEC 5-dr. Black £6,999
58 Reg NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 1.4 5-door, in Met Grey, as new £5999
08 Reg RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXPRESSION Met Blue, P/S, C/L, E/W, A/C, alloys £4699
57 Reg POLO 1.2 S Met Black, PS, CL, EW, alloys, AC £4599
57 Reg ASTRA SRi 3-door. In Black, half leather, PAS, CL, EW, AC, alloys £5999
57 Reg PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LOOK Met Silver, PS, CL, EW, CD £3999
07 Reg VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SXi Met Silver, PS, CL, EW, AC, alloys £5699
56 Reg TOYOTA AVENSIS 1.8 COLOUR COLLECTION 5-dr, Silver £4499
06 Reg FOCUS 1.6 LX 5-dr. Met Blue £3,999
55 Reg KIA MAGENTIS 2.0 LE Met Silver, P/S, C/L, A/C, only £1999
55 Reg FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE 1.2 Metallic Blue. PS CL, EW, CD £2499
55 Reg SUZUKI SWIFT 1.3 GS In Red. 5-door, P/S, C/L, E/W, ... £4199
05 Reg RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE Met Silver, P/S, C/L, E/W, Alloys, only £2499
54 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXi. In Metallic Blue, P/S, C/L, E/W, A/C, alloys £2499
54 Reg NISSAN MICRA 1.2 Met Grey, 5-dr, PS, CL, EW, alloys, only £2499
53 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SRi 3-door. Metallic Silver, P/S, C/L, E/W, alloys £2499
52 Reg VW POLO 1.2S in Blue, PS, CL, 5-dr. £2499
02 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA SXi 5-dr. Black, alloys £2,399
V Reg LEXUS IS200 SPORT Met Grey, PS, CL, EW, alloys £1199
Y Reg PEUGEOT 206 CC 1.6 Met Silver, Red/Black Leather, PS, CL, EW, AC, alloys £1999
K Reg BMW 320i Coupe. Met Red, PS, CL, EW, alloys £699

SPORTS & CONVERTIBLES

05 Reg PEUGEOT 307 CC 2.0 In Silver, Black leather, PS, CL, A CD, alloys £6999
53 Reg BMW 318 Ci Met Silver, Black leather, PS, CL, EW, AC, alloys £3199
52 Reg MG ZS in Metallic Red, PS, EW,alloys £1699

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Solutions representative finance example
Citigo 3dr S 1.0 60PS 5spd Manual:
based on 3.5 years, 6,000 miles per annum#

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Acceptance fee	£125.00^
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Amount of credit	£7,381.00
Total amount payable	£8,934.80
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Solutions representative finance example
Octavia 1.6 TDI CR SE 5dr:
based on 3.5 years, 6,000 miles per annum#

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Autosales deposit contribution	£1,250.00
Additional deposit or part/ex	£1,750.00
41 monthly payments of	£198.89
Acceptance fee	£125.00^
Option to purchase fee	£60.00^^
Optional final payment	£5,715.00
Amount of credit	£11,695.00
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*Offer available on Citigo 3dr S 1.0 60PS 5spd Manual when purchased through ŠKODA Solutions. ‡Octavia 1.6 TDI CR SE 5dr when purchased through ŠKODA Solutions. Offers available on ŠKODA retail orders subject to availability before 31st December 2012. ^Payable with first payment. ^^Payable with optional final payment. #4.4p per mile excess charges apply. Further charges may be payable if the vehicle is returned. **Up to 3 years' or 30,000 miles free servicing (whichever comes first) available on selected models when purchased with Solutions or hire purchase. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available for over 18s in the UK from participating retailers. Excludes the Channel Islands. ŠKODA Finance.
Freepost ŠKODA Finance. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at anytime and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.
** ŠKODA Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS in Brilliant Silver Metallic, Steel Grey and Denim Blue Metallic with spare wheel. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Discount only applies to OTR price of vehicle including metallic paint and spare wheel. Optional specification cannot be added on this offer. **3 years or 30,000 miles free servicing (whichever comes sooner). Terms and Conditions apply. Available when purchased with Solutions. 7.9% APR Representative. Available on new retail orders subject to availability before the 31st March 2013. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available for over 18s. Excludes the Channel Islands. ŠKODA Finance. Freepost ŠKODA Finance. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

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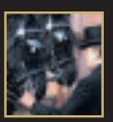
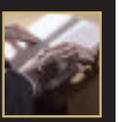

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Deaths

CARNELL
Reginald
Of Cannock.

Reginald passed away at his home on December 13, 2012, aged 92 years.

Reginald will be sadly missed by all his devoted Family.

The Funeral Service took place at Bushbury Crematorium, on Thursday, December 27, 2012, at 11am.

Donations will be gratefully received for Macmillan Cancer c/o the Funeral Director. Reginald was entrusted into the care of HALLIWELL FUNERAL SERVICE 70 Hednesford Road Heath Hayes Cannock Staffs WS12 3EA 01543 459200.

Love you always, didn't want to let you go, it breaks our hearts, our tears will always flow.

Son Martin, Daughter-in-law Marion, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.

XXX

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT
CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 11.30am every Tuesday for the same weeks edition.

BENSON
Joyce

Died December 19, at Stafford Hospital, aged 90.

Her Funeral Service will take place Tuesday, January 8, at 9.30am at St.Luke's Church, Cannock, followed by a Committal Service at Stafford Crematorium.

All inquiries

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock,WS11 1DH
01543 502322

BIRD
Anna
of Cannock.

Passed away peacefully on December 19, 2012, aged 82 years.

The devoted Wife of Harold and beloved Mom of Jean, also a loving Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, Mother-in-law and Friend.

Funeral Service will be held at St. Peter's Church, Hednesford, on Thursday, January 10, at 10.30am, followed by Interment at Stile Cop Cemetery.

The Funeral care has been entrusted to;
FARAGHER MAGUIRE
Family Funeral Directors
Brindley House
75, Broadhurst Green
Hednesford
Tel 01543 879866.

HUNT
Beryl Vera

Of Hatherton, sadly passed away, December 23, at Ashcroft Hollow Nursing Home, aged 82.

A very special lady who was loved by all her Family and Friends.

Her Funeral Service will take place at Stafford Crematorium at 2.30pm, Wednesday, January 9, 2013.

Family flowers only but donations would be appreciated for the British Heart Foundation c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock,WS11 1DH
01543 502322

LEE
Edward (Eric)
Of Heath Hayes.

Passed away peacefully at the Grange Nursing Home on December 26, 2012.

The devoted Husband of Edna also a beloved Uncle (Dad), Grandad and Friend.

Will be deeply missed by all.

Family flowers only donations to The Grange Residents Fund c/o Funeral Directors.

All Funeral details from Funeral Directors.

The Funeral care has been entrusted to;
FARAGHER MAGUIRE
Family Funeral Directors
Brindley House
75, Broadhurst Green
Hednesford
Tel: 01543 879866.

RAMSDALE
Barbara

Passed away peacefully at The Heathers Nursing Home, on Monday, December 17, 2012.

The Funeral Service will take place at Burntwood Methodist Church, on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at 10am, followed by Interment at Fallins Heath Cemetery, Wednesbury, at 11.30am.
Donations welcome, these will be forwarded to St Giles Hospice, cheques should be made payable to the chosen charity.

Family and Friends are invited to return to Calderfields Golf Club, Mellish Road, Walsall, for light refreshments.
Any further inquiries to
CO-OPERATIVE FUNERALCARE
106 Hednesford Road
Heath Hayes
WS12 3EA
01543 495609

WILDING
Alan
Of Cannock.

Passed away at his home on Sunday, December 23, 2012 aged 76 years.

Reunited with Wife Beryl and beloved Dad of Helen also a loving Brother.

Funeral Service will be held at Chadsmoor Methodist Chapel, Thursday, January 10, at 1.45pm, followed by Interment at Cannock Cemetery.
The Funeral care has been entrusted to;
FARAGHER MAGUIRE
Family Funeral Directors
Brindley House
75, Broadhurst Green
Hednesford.
Tel: 01543 879866.

In Memoriam

MILLINGTON
Stephen

Two years, January 7.

Life is lonely without you Steve, nothing is the same, no length of time will ever ease the pain, all we have left are memories and your photo in a frame.

Longed for always.

Love, Mom and Dad.

PRESTON
Marjorie
December 29, 2011.

A year has passed since we saw you last, no words can describe how much you are loved and missed.

Your beautiful smile, your great big heart, made you the best Wife, Mom and Nan in the world.

Your Beloved Family.

YAPP
Mark
Beloved Son

Four years January 2.

Another year sadly passed, you're gone from our lives but in our hearts you'll always stay. Never forgotten, love you always.
Lovingly remembered, Mom, John and Family.

Birthday Remembrances

DUNNING
Sheila

31st December 1941

Sleeping till we meet again.

All My Love Doug

XXX

Acknowledgements

DEGG
David Andrew

Passed away on November 18, 2012, aged 56 years.

Janet, Victoria and Benjamin, the Wife and Children of David would like to thank everyone for their condolences and for the cards of sympathy and flowers we received during this difficult and sad time. We would also like to thank the many people who attended the Funeral and for their kind donations of £652.30, which is to be split between The British Heart Foundation and The Air Ambulance.

David was a wonderful, kind, loving man, who is so greatly missed.

Lost & Found

GINGER/WHITE large male cat, named Toby, lost in Columbian Drive Heath Gap Road, Cannock, December 27th. 01543 570420.

LOST—December 3, Cat, Male tabby, neutered, one hind paw white,uniform markings. Palfrey area, Reward. 01922 611402.

Birthdays

Happy 80th Birthday Mom

Lots of love from Carol, Dave, Glenys, Tony, Debbie, Gavin, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.

X X X

Edith Whitehouse

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3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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Staffordshire County Council

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO MAKE A GATING ORDER

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (SPRING SLADE LANE (THE D4307) BEDNALL PARISH) GATING ORDER 2012.

NOTICE Is hereby given that Staffordshire County Council, being the Highway Authority for the public highway known as Spring Slade Lane, which is also known as the D4307 in the District of South Staffordshire Council and comprising the length of Spring Slade Lane, also known as the D4307, propose to make a Gating Order under S129A of the Highways Act 1980 ("the Act") for the Public Highway aforementioned.

When the Order comes into effect the public right to pass over the length of the specified highway described above, and shown on the plan annexed to the Order, shall be restricted at all times for all classes of public user other than use by the public on foot, on horseback, leading a horse or for bicycles and enforced by means of a gate or barrier. All public vehicular access whether mechanically propelled or otherwise will be prohibited.

There is no alternative route for vehicles.

A copy of a draft of the proposed Order and accompanying documents may be viewed free of charge at Staffordshire County Council Reception, Peel Building, St. Chad's Place, Stafford ST16 2LR during normal working hours Monday to Friday. Details may also be viewed on the County Council website at www.staffordshire.gov.uk.

The proposed Order is shown in the schedule below.

Anybody wishing to make representations as to whether or not the Order should be made must do so in writing within 28 days, that is by 1 February 2013, of the first publication of this Notice. Written representations should be sent to Dr Catherine Raines, Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Place 1, c/o Wedgwood Building, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH, quoting reference number HoHNM/G2389/59.

Schedule

Draft Gating Order

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (SPRING SLADE LANE (THE D4307) BEDNALL PARISH) GATING ORDER 2012.

This Order is made by Staffordshire County Council ("the Authority") under Section 129A of the Highways Act 1980 because it appears to the Authority that a Gating Order would reduce environmental crime and anti-social behaviour taking place either on, or facilitated by the existence of, the public highway. This Order may be cited as the Staffordshire County Council (Spring Slade Lane (The D4307) Bednall Parish) Gating Order 2012.

By this Order:

1. The public right of way, being a relevant highway, and being a public highway known as Spring Slade Lane, which is also identified as the D4307 in the Parish of Bednall, in the District of South Staffordshire Council and comprising the whole of the above will be restricted at all times for all classes of public user other than use by the public on foot, on horse, leading a horse or on bicycles, that is all public vehicular use whether mechanically propelled or not is prohibited, and enforced by the erection of barriers or gates shown at their approximate location on the annexed plan
2. The Authority are satisfied that:
   (a) Premises adjoining or adjacent to the highway are affected by crime or anti-social behaviour;
   (b) The existence of the highway is facilitating the persistent commission of criminal offences or anti-social behaviour.
   (c) It is in all the circumstances expedient to make the Order for the purposes of reducing crime or anti-social behaviour.
3. There is no alternative route.
4. Police, Fire and Ambulance emergency services, statutory undertakers with equipment situated under, over, along or in the highway, council officers and other persons authorised in writing by the County Council for the purposes of carrying out works of repair or maintenance to the highway or adjoining premises shall be exempt from the provisions of this Order.
5. The persons responsible for opening and closing gates or barriers are:
   Mrs Kaye Le Page, Spring Slade Lodge, Camp Road, Brocton
   Mr Mark Arnold, Burrows Mowers, Cannock Road, Bednall
   The Forestry commission will be responsible for erecting and maintaining the gates.
6. If any person wishes to question the validity of this Order on the ground that the County Council has no power to make it, or any requirement of Part 8A of the Act has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may apply to the High Court within six weeks from the date which the Order is made.

Given under the Common Seal of Staffordshire County Council on the ..... day of 2012

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.....
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Three out of four as Saddlers on the up

Walsall 1 Stevenage 0

WHAT winless run? That 16-game streak which threatened to kibosh Walsall's season is nothing but a distant memory after this New Year's Day win.

The Saddlers entered 2013 with victory over Stevenage borne out of steel and style.

Jamie Paterson's superb late winner won a combative contest to make it three wins from four games and lift any lingering gloom. It took Paterson's tally to seven – three goals in his last five games.

Now tomorrow's televised visit of freefalling Portsmouth could send the Saddlers a whopping 14 points clear of the drop zone.

Florent Cuvelier made his first start for two months in place of the suspended Febian Brandy, but went off after just eight minutes with a hamstring injury. Goalkeeper Karl Darlow returned after he rejoined on loan from Nottingham Forest.

It looked as though the Saddlers would fail to pierce stubborn Stevenage, but Paterson won it with four minutes remaining when he made space on the edge of the area and rifled home an unstoppable rising drive.

This was, perhaps, one of Paterson's more frustrating outings, but he has the ability to create and produce moments of magic which will prove the difference.

Indoor bowls

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	P	W	L	A	P
Evans & Pritchatt	9	8	1	74	16
Edwards & Murray	9	6	3	49	12
Storer & Storer	9	6	3	27	12
Handley & Chester	10	6	4	9	12
Newey & Hazlehurst	10	6	4	-6	12
Parsons & Parsons	10	5	5	-4	10
Marshman & Preece	10	4	6	-22	8
Hayward & Gray	9	3	6	-15	6
Cavill & Bardsley	9	3	6	-41	6
Bennett & Pugh	11	1	10	-71	2

Division 2: S & C Baird 14; M & P Colbourne 21; G Garbett & B Taylor 21; T Partridge & B Stacey 14; L Simonczyk & T Platz 15; J Hollis & S Powis 21; A Allcock & O Evans 21; S & C Baird 9; R Worthington & P Lines 20; A Preece & F Statham 21; M & P Colbourne 21; C Everitt & S Edwards 17.

	P	W	L	A	P
Preece & Statham	10	8	2	57	16
Hollis & Powis	10	8	2	43	16
Simonczyk & Platz	10	7	3	33	14
C'burne & C'burne	10	7	3	22	14
Partridge & Stacey	9	5	4	27	10
Baird & Baird	9	4	5	-8	8
W'ington & Lines	10	3	7	-39	6
Everitt & Edwards	10	3	7	-45	6
Garbett & Taylor	9	2	7	-31	4
Allcock & Evans	9	1	8	-59	2

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Sunday, February 24, 2013

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.....
Estimated finish time.....
State whether runner or walker.....
Date of birth .....**Age on day**.....
Club (if any).....**Sex (M/F)**.....
Telephone No.....
Email address .....

I declare that I am medically fit to run and understand that I take part entirely at my own risk. I declare that I am an amateur as defined by the UKA. I agree to abide by the current laws and rules of competition of the UKA. I will be 15 or over on the day of the event.

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Date.....

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BLACK COUNTRY keep-fit fans are preparing to run for their hearts.

Action Heart's annual five-mile run takes place this year on Sunday, February 24.

The 23rd Heart Run gets under way at 9.30am, starting and finishing at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

The event, supported by Dudley NHS Primary Care Trusts, is enjoyed by all types of people, from serious club runners to joggers and fun-runners.

Many might not tackle the event but for the training schedule provided by the organisers, which will appear in the Chronicle.

An application form is printed, left, or can be downloaded from www.actionheartrunning.com

Send a cheque, payable to Action Heart, with entry form and SAE for race number to: Action Heart, 5 Baird House, Dudley Innovation Centre, Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford, DY6 7YA.

Fee: £11 (registered running club members); £13 (non-club members). There is no entry on the day.

If you have not exercised for some time or are out of condition, see your doctor and get approval.

Training: Week One

Monday: 10 minutes (alternate one min jog/one min walk).
Tuesday: Rest.
Wednesday: Five minutes (two min jog/one min walk/two min jog).
Thursday: Rest.
Friday: Seven minutes (three min jog/one min walk/three min jog).
Saturday: Rest.
Sunday: 10 minutes (jog/walk).
Look out for week two next week.

Skipper earns a point with last-gasp strike

CHASETOWN gained a point in the only Evo-Stik Division One South game to take place on the Saturday before Christmas.

Full credit had to be given to the Lincoln ground staff for their phenomenal hard work to even get the game playable in the first place, ***writes Paul Mullins.***

Referee Tommy Hollidge gave the game the green light although there was always a question mark over the match had any further rain fallen throughout it.

Understandably the first half started cautiously as players literally found their feet and tested the surface.

The first period was anything but an early Christmas cracker. Neither keeper were troubled by goalbound efforts and the game was halted close to half time due to an injury to Lincoln keeper Phil McGann.

Lincoln Utd 2
Chasetown 2

Possession

The closest either side came to breaking the deadlock was a right footed shot from Danny Ashton into the side-netting.

Within eight minutes at the start of the second half, Lincoln went two goals clear. On 50 minutes, Chasetown conceded possession defensively and Scott Coupland latched onto a cross and beat Ryan Price at the near post.

Three minutes later, Chasetown felt they should have had a free kick but the referee awarded a drop ball from which Lincoln broke quickly and Jordan Hempenstall was presented with a simple chance to side foot home.

The visitors pulled one back in the 56th minute when Simon Brown's left wing cross deceived everyone and sailed beyond a flailing McGann.

Brown was a whisker away from an equaliser from 30 yards with McGann well beaten as the ball flashed wide.

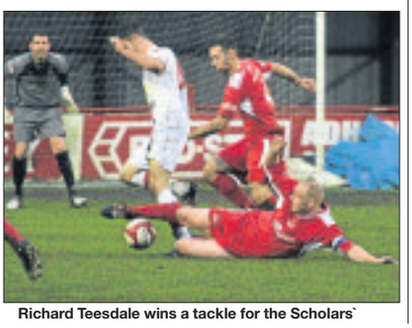
Seven minutes from time, substitute Gary Hay got onto the end of a through ball and was close to getting a touch to take the ball around McGann, only for the custodian to pounce on the ball at the second attempt.

After dominating the latter stages, Chasetown levelled in the final minute.

Forward Danny Smith chased a lost cause down by the corner flag earning the Scholars a corner. Jack Farmer flicked on Brown's kick at the near post into the path of skipper Richard Teesdale who volleyed home from six yards, bisecting the goalkeeper and a defender on the line.

Both teams struggled at Lincoln in conditions which were not conducive to a passing game. *Pictures: Dave Birt*

Danny Smith, left, at full stretch for Chasetown



Richard Teesdale wins a tackle for the Scholars`

Lindgren emerges unharmed after crash

WOLVES speedway star Freddie Lindgren has emerged unscathed from a nasty fall in America. He crashed early on in the Monster Energy Invitational in Los Angeles on Saturday.

The Swede reappeared later in the meeting and settled for four points.

Team-mate Ricky Wells was the best rider in the qualifying heats and finished third in the final behind winner Billy Janniro and runner-up Greg Hancock, the former Cradley man. Another Heathens legend and former Wolves rider, Billy Hamill, was fourth.

Wells was happy with his performance. He said: "After the heat races I was super-excited and pretty confident because I was going good.

"I got gate three in the final and when you've got Hancock and Hamill either side of you it's always going to be tough!"

Meanwhile, club president Sam Ermolenko will signs autographs and pose for pictures at sponsors Parrys International's open day on Sunday from 10am to 3pm at their depot in Landywood Green, Cheslyn Hay.

The former world champion will be on hand to represent the club.

Trio have a belting start to new year

THREE martial arts players go into 2013 with newly-awarded black belts.

Robert Jones, aged 17, Samuel Wright, 18 and 16-year-old Max Grosvenor are all members of Black Star Aikido Club, based at Cheslyn Hay. They all qualified for first degree dan awards.

Chief instructor Tony Brown, a sixth dan aikido master and national coach, said: "I am very proud to have these new young black belts in the organisation.

"They are a credit to all young people who wish to achieve their best."

Club training sessions take place on Monday and Friday nights at the village hall in Pinfold Lane.

The Black Star club is open to anyone over the age of 12. To join, call 01543 451210 or e-mail info@blackstaraikido.com

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A Rey of light puts Rangers in dark

Stafford Rangers 0
Hednesford Town 1

AARON REY gave Hednesford Town a well-deserved victory over Stafford Rangers, with the only goal in a fiery Boxing Day derby.

The match was played out on a sodden, cut-up pitch.

But the victorious Hednesford manager Rob Smith was pleased with the character of his side to fight through the mudbath for the win.

"We showed real character despite the struggles with the pitch," he said. "We were the better side and deserved the win."

Rangers boss Greg Clowes was magnanimous in defeat, citing the fact his goalkeeper Adam Alcock pulled off three superb saves before his defence let in Rey.

"The game was a proper local derby," he said. "Hednesford were denied by Alcock three times but after all our hard work it was disappointing to concede the goal like we did."

The Pitmen started strongly and could have been three goals up in the first 15 minutes.

Ex-Pitman Danny Quinn forced his former side's keeper Dan Crane into a smart save on 32 minutes.

The second half failed to live up the action of the first as the heavy pitch sapped the energy of the players.

Alex Melbourne heroically cleared a goalbound shot off the line with 17 minutes to go before Rey latched on to a well-judged through ball to score the winner.

Cricket club training call

HAWKINS Junior Cricket Club in Cheslyn Hay launch their pre-season training programme tomorrow.

They turned the form book upside down in 2012, winning four league titles and a cup in only their third season.

They are now on the lookout for more players in school years five to 10.

Weekly training starts at Cheslyn Hay Sports Centre tomorrow with years five and below in action from 5-6pm.

Years six and seven get their turn from 6-7pm while from 7-8pm it's the turn of years eight, nine and 10.

All coaches are qualified and CRB checked. More details at www.hawkinsjunior cricket.co.uk or call 07831 858699.

A fine Hednesford move leaves Neil Harvey with a simple finish against Rushall as he follows the ball into the net

Tesfa Robinson celebrates his goal for Chasetown

PITMEN LET IT SLIP AS FRANCIS SEES RED

HEDNESFORD TOWN lost ground on Evo-Stik Northern Premier leaders North Ferriby after a second-half defensive collapse.

It came once centre-back Francino Francis saw red for a second bookable offence on 68 minutes with his side 3-1 up. Rushall promptly scored three goals without reply to win a hugely entertaining match, ***writes Chris Brewerton.***

The Pitmen, looking to build on their 1-0 Boxing Day win against Stafford Rangers, opened the scoring with yet another successful Elliott Durrell penalty after Jamey Osborne was felled in the area on eight minutes.

Rushall had already threatened before that when Dave Walker shot wide, but the Pics were hit on the counter-attack after 21 minutes when Hednesford doubled their lead with an outstanding move.

Osborne won the ball strongly in midfield and released Aaron Rey down the right channel.

He advanced towards goal and put in a perfect cross to the feet of Neil Harvey to finish.

Cushion

The away side lacked bite up front in the first half with only Ahmed Obeng looking threatening – but that all changed in the second period as the Pitmen's shape was affected by first-half injuries to Osborne and Dave MacPherson.

Wayne Daniel got a goal back on 52 minutes when he powered in a header from a corner, but Hednesford restored their two-goal cushion on 55 minutes, Ben Bailey heading in a superb Nathan Woolfe free-kick.

Obeng missed a golden opportunity on 65 minutes when Francis misjudged a ball over the top but three minutes later Obeng was away again only for Francis to trip the striker and receive his marching orders.

Hednesford Tn 3
Rushall Oly 4

Substitute Joel Purkiss swept in a free-kick from 20 yards for Rushall on 70 minutes and Sam Barnes inexplicably missed a through ball to let in Dave Walker for the equaliser 60 seconds later.

Hednesford almost forced an unlikely winner when Rey's brilliant control and overhead kick brought a good save from Chris Gemmell.

But with the clock on 93 minutes Keys Park was silenced when Obeng and Andre Landell combined to set up Walker for the winner.

The result will undoubtedly frustrate the Pitmen but they have the perfect chance to recover when visit are welcomed to Keys Park on Saturday. With North Ferriby winning against Blyth Spartans to go seven points clear, it is a must-win game for Hednesford.

Hednesford Town: Dickinson, Melbourne, Campion, Bailey, Francis, MacPherson (Disney 29), Osborne (Lennon 35), Durrell, Harvey, Rey, Woolfe (Barnes 69). Subs not used: O'Connor, Craven.

Rushall Olympic: Gemmell, Haynes, Beckett, Caines, Daniel, Craddock, Stephens (Landell 46), Bragoli, Walker, Obeng, Bottomer (Purkiss 67). Subs not used: Clarke, Tolley, Islam.

Attendance: 698.

Hednesford's Michael Lennon displays some sharp footwork for the Pitmen in their home defeat to Rushall Olympic

Seven go into the referee's notebook

Halesowen 1 Chasetown 1

HONOURS were equal in a keenly-contested Evo-Stik Division One South encounter which saw seven yellow cards.

Tesfa Robinson struck a late equaliser for Chasetown after Ben Haseley's 24th of the season had handed Halesowen a first-half lead, ***writes David Johnson.***

In a lively opening, Halesowen captain Brendan Kelly crashed a 30-yard free-kick against the Chasetown bar. Yeltz then grabbed a 25th-minute lead when goalkeeper Dean Coleman's long clearance found Haseley to squirt a low shot under goalkeeper Ryan Price.

Halesowen created further chances before the break with Gavin Winsper's back-header falling just wide and a Price parrying a Jean-Michel Gueyes shot.

Chasetown introduced Theo Robinson for the second half, but Haseley almost doubled the home side's lead after 52 minutes.

Simon Brown's appeal for a 63rd minute Chasetown penalty was turned down and the same player fired over from 12 yards in the 72nd minute.

Four minutes later Theo Robinson's cross bobbled off a surprised Gary Hay but Chasetown's pressure finally forced an 87th-minute equaliser as Tesfa Robinson swept home at the far post.

Halesowen Town: Coleman; Bowen, Caines, Bottfield, Winsper, Kelly, Warmer (Scheppel 68), Griffiths, Arshad (Corbett 74), Haseley, Gueyes. **Subs not used:** Hull, D Evans, P Evans.

Chasetown: Price; Farmer, Branch, Bate, Tesfa Robinson, Teesdale, Westwood, Saunders (Theo Robinson 46), Hay (Wellecomme 81), Smith (Dubidat 81), Brown. **Subs not used:** Downes, Ashton.

Referee: Robbie Dadley. **Attendance:** 285.

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